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U.S. trade gap nears \$32 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States ran a deficit of \$31.8 billion in the broadest measure of foreign trade last quarter, the government said Monday, providing ammunition for supporters of tough trade legislation in Congress. The deteriorating trade picture was likely to help chances for protectionist legislation, such as a bill to impose quotas on textile imports before the House of Representatives ways and means committee. The committee was expected to approve the bill on Tuesday and send it to the house where support was strong. President Reagan, who is sure to be asked about trade at his news conference Tuesday night, has vowed to veto bills that raise trade barriers. In a speech Mr. Reagan will give next week, he will defend policies of free and fair trade while emphasizing that America's trading partners must play by the rules, aides said.

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Iraq repeats warning to Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — For the second time in three days Iraq on Monday accused Iran of bombing civilians and threatened retaliation. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) referred to an air raid on a residential area of the northern city of Sulaimaniyah on Saturday and an attempt to hit the southern port city of Basra on Sunday and quoted Information Minister Latif Nassif Al-Jassem as saying: "Iran's bombardment of purely residential targets in Iraqi towns will be met with what it deserves from the Iraqi armed forces. In defence of Iraq's sovereignty and security." Iran denied the "ul-eimaniyah" attack, repeating an earlier claim that its Saturday raid was against "military and economic targets" in the nearby town of Um Al-Qharb. On Sunday Iran said its planes attacked similar targets in Basra, but Monday's Iraqi war communiqué said those jets were driven off by anti-aircraft fire "without achieving their aim."

Egyptian aviation team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing Egypt's General Aviation Corporation, arrived here Monday on a three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the delegation, which is led by the corporation's director, Ali Othman Zaki, will hold talks with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials on issues related to air transport and means to boost Jordanian-Egyptian relations in aviation. The delegation was met upon arrival at Queen Alia International Airport by CAA Director General Khaled Mohamoud Ali and senior CAA officials.

Katynushas land in Galilee

TEL AVIV (AP) — Several Katyusha rockets landed in Israeli settlements in the Galilee region causing no damage or casualties, a military source said Monday. Remnants of the rockets, which the source said, were fired from Lebanon, were found Monday morning while Israelis observed the Jewish new year holiday. No further details about the attack were available. Israeli Radio said the assault by 107-mm rockets was one of more than 10 from Lebanon since Israel pulled most of its troops from the south after a three-year occupation in June.

Amal says SLA positions destroyed

SIDON, South Lebanon (R) — Sources in the Shiite Muslim militia Amal said its men withdrew after capturing three positions early Sunday from the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia near the town of Jezzine. The sources said Amal fighters destroyed vehicles and fortifications at SLA posts at Mazraat Sujud, south of Jezzine, before returning safely to base. The SLA has defended the Jezzine area since Amal and its allies overran several villages around Sidon last April.

Tias in Athens

ATHENS (AP) — Syrian Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Mustafa Tias arrived here Monday for a three-day official visit and talks with Premier Andreas Papandreu. Gen. Tias was greeted on the tarmac at Athens airport by Deputy Premier Yiannis Haralambopoulos and Greek armed forces leaders.

Iranian rebels list 12,000 executions

PARIS (R) — The left-wing people's Mujahideen organisation on Monday published a list of names of 12,028 people it said had been executed in Iran since June 1981. The Paris-based Iranian dissident group said the list was an updated and expanded version of one published a year ago, which listed 10,231 executions. Mujahideen leader Massoud Rajavi sent the new list to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and asked him to use all means to end what Mr. Rajavi described as the continuing execution and torture of political prisoners.

British orders out 6 more Soviets

LONDON (AP) — Britain on Monday ordered the expulsion of six more Soviets, two of them diplomats, in an escalating confrontation sparked by the defection of the KGB's top operative in this country.

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Rifai, Kasm open talks in Jeddah; air of cautious optimism prevails

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

JEDDAH — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and his Syrian counterpart Abdul Raouf Al Kasm met here on Monday and held talks on means to settle differences between the two countries.

No details were available on the talks but well-informed observers here said that an air of "reserved optimism" prevailed in both Amman and Jeddah.

The fence-mending talks are sponsored by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz, who heads a committee set up by an extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca last month to reconcile Syria with Jordan and Iraq. The committee also includes Arab League Secretary General Chaudhri Klibi and Tunisian Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali.

The opening session of the two-day talks was chaired by Prince Abdullah and attended by Mr. Klibi and other senior Saudi officials.

The Jordanian side to the talks included Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Jassem while the Syrian side included Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara'a.

Mr. Mzali is currently on an official visit to Czechoslovakia. The talks between Jordan and Syria were arranged after a tour made by the committee last week to Syria, Jordan and Iraq.

Reconciliation with Jordan hinges on avoiding an "Egyptian-style separate peace treaty" with Israel, Jordan has repeatedly said it would never agree to direct negotiations with Israel and reiterated commitment to an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations in which Syria should take part.

Mr. Rifai, who left Amman earlier on Monday for Saudi Arabia, also held bilateral consultations upon his arrival in Jeddah with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and Mr. Klibi.

Mr. Rifai and Mr. Jassem were seen off at Amman airport by the Saudi ambassador and was received in Jeddah by Prince Abdullah, Prince of Mecca Majed Ibn Abdul Aziz, Prince Faisal and Deputy Commander of Saudi National Guards Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Tuwaijri.

Welcoming the Jordanian and Syrian prime ministers on Monday, Prince Abdullah said Saudi Arabia would spare no efforts to arrive at a rapprochement between Jordan and Syria.

Prince Abdullah, announcing on Saturday that Mr. Rifai and Mr. Kasm would meet in Jeddah on Monday, said the Arab reconciliation committee was continuing efforts to reach an understanding between Damascus and Baghdad to initiate reconciliation talks between Syria and Iraq. Rival wings of the Arab Baathist Party are in power in Damascus and Baghdad.

Reports from Jeddah indicated that the Saudi authorities were imposing a tight lid of secrecy over the Rifai-Kasm talks, which were held at a palace inaccessible to journalists. Political observers said the Saudi desire for secrecy seemed to be aimed at ensuring the success of the talks.

Well-informed Saudi officials told the Associated Press that His Majesty King Hussein would hold consultations with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia sometimes this week, ahead of his planned meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Sept. 30.

Syrian officials have said that a member Khaled Al Hassan stressed that normalising relations between Jordan and Syria "is imperative to the restoration of Arab solidarity."

"A rapprochement between Jordan and Syria would be a heartening accomplishment on four fronts — to break the five-year-old impasse between the two countries, pave the road for Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation, use the Syrian links with Tehran to end the Iran-Iraq war, and open new vistas for negotiations towards a comprehensive peace between the Arabs and Israel," commented an Arab diplomat in Jeddah, quoted by the AP.

Shortly before his meeting with the Syrian prime minister, Mr. Rifai held talks in Jeddah with Fatah Central Committee member Hani Al Hassan, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

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Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai (second from right) and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Jassem (to Mr. Rifai's right) leave Jeddah on Monday to attend a Saudi-sponsored Syrian-Jordanian reconciliation meeting (Petra photo)

Hassan appeals for urgent Arab and Islamic help to Sudanese

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday appealed to the Arab and Islamic worlds to extend help to the Sudanese people facing the consequences of drought and famine. Millions of Sudanese in refugee camps are facing starvation because of the drought and their brothers in the Arab and Islamic world's ought to help them overcome this problem, the Crown Prince said.

In his appeal, which was telecast to the Arab and Islamic worlds via satellite on Monday, Prince Hassan said: "Helping Sudan and the Sudanese people would be part of our national duty and human responsibility."

Jordan, he said, has drawn up a programme for extending urgent aid to Sudan and will search for permanent solutions to the problem of Sudanese refugees.

The appeal followed Prince Hassan's visit to Sudan last week where he toured refugee camps and saw displaced people living in misery, deprivation and starvation as a result of the drought.

Following is the appeal: My brothers and sisters: I address you after I have returned from an official visit to Sudan with a sad and pained heart for the miserable conditions in which the Sudanese refugees live after being displaced from their homes due to drought and scarcity of food and water. Similar conditions prevail in camps which are continuously receiving drought victims from neighbouring countries.

During my visit to the camps, I was briefed on the conditions of the refugees and heard bitter complaints due to lack of assistance from Arab and Islamic nations who merely looked on as the Sudanese people are left to face their misery and disaster.

The Sudanese people look to their brethren with hope in their hearts for help in the face of the catastrophe. Sudan has witnessed five consecutive rainless years marked with drought which caused immense economic difficulties for the country and considerable agricultural losses, famine, disease and deprivation, unprecedented in this century.

According to United Nations estimates, nearly 8,400,000 people in Sudan suffer from drought and famine.

Sudan also faces the problem of an influx of 1.5 million refugees from Eritrea, Chad, Zaïre, Uganda. These are increasing in number everyday. A total of 25 voluntary agencies are currently involved in relief programmes to the refugees. Most of these agencies are from Europe and America but no agency or charitable society from the Arab or Islamic worlds except one is involved in the relief operation, though nearly 84 per cent of the refugees are Muslims.

The refugees have been living in misery for many years as a result of famine and armed struggle on their territory, and hundreds of thousands have already perished. Thousands of children among these refugees still face death everyday due to lack of food and disease.

We in Jordan, in a show of humanitarian duty and in a bid to alleviate the sufferings of the Sudanese people and under directives from His Majesty King Hussein, have prepared a programme for extending urgent aid to Sudan.

In my capacity as co-chairman of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, I discussed with Sudanese officials arrangements that could be made on the international level. Agreement was reached on launching efforts to secure immediate funds to be extended to small Sudanese farmers and to establish an early warning system to warn of the danger of famine before it happens, and to seek permanent solutions for the Sudanese refugees.

I convey to you calls for help from your brothers in Sudan on the occasion of the New Hijri Year. This is a great occasion for Muslims to show solidarity and march in the footsteps of the Prophet Mohammad and extend a helping hand to their brothers in diversity.

I appeal to you to extend to help to your brothers in Sudan who look to you for saving their lives.

S Africa reports invasion of Angola, says operation is against SWAPO men

PRETORIA (R) — South Africa said its troops invaded Angola on Monday in pursuit of nationalist commandos fighting for the freedom of Namibia (South-West Africa).

The South African Defence Force (SADF) said troops crossed into Angola in a follow-up operation against South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas. Angolan government troops were warned not to interfere, it added.

The raids followed information that SWAPO planned bombardments of military bases in Namibia, attacks on so-called soft targets in the north of the South Africa-ruled territory and raids on larger towns and residential areas in Namibia, the SADF claimed in a statement.

SWAPO has fought a bush war for 20 years against South African rule in Namibia. South Africa rules the territory under a mandate from the defunct League of Nations whose successor, the United Nations, says it should surrender control.

The South Africans said they killed 57 SWAPO fighters in a raid into southern Angola in July. The military said on Monday that the new operation would be supported by the air force and "follows intensive intelligence gathering actions over months in a number of areas in Angola where SWAPO is present."

"Intensive reconnaissance showed that SWAPO... planned stand-off bombardments on military bases and attacks on soft targets in Ovambo (in northern Namibia)," it claimed. "SWAPO also intended to attack larger towns and residential areas in South West Africa."

A spokesman declined to give details of the size of the operation, which included troops of the South African-led South West Africa Territory Force, or how long it would last.

South Africa invaded Angola in an operation against SWAPO bases in 1983 but announced the withdrawal of its last troops from there this June 3. It said it reserved the right to "protect" Namibia with cross-border raids.

African states urge more pressure on Pretoria, page 8

Palme reelected with reduced majority

STOCKHOLM (R) — Prime Minister Olof Palme has won his fourth full term in office after Sunday's election in which Sweden swung behind his promise to uphold the welfare state but cut his parliamentary majority.

His ruling Social Democratic Party and its ally the tiny Communist Party together won 50.4 per cent of the vote and 178 of the 349 seats in parliament, down from 51.2 per cent and 186 seats in the 1982 elections.

The three parties of the centre-right coalition which ruled Sweden from 1976 to 1982 saw their share of the vote go up to 48.1 per cent from 45 per cent in the last elections and won 171 seats, an increase of eight.

Mr. Palme, 58, hailed the outcome as a fantastic result for his party after three years in government and said that by defeating a conservative threat to the "Swedish model" he had scored

one of the greatest victories of his long political career (Palme's pragmatism wins him election, page 4).

As in last week's Norwegian elections where Prime Minister Kaare Willoch's conservative-led government's majority was slashed to one seat, the Swedish poll was dominated by a debate over the future of Scandinavia's cradle-to-grave welfare system.

Norwegian Labour leader Gro Harlem Brundtland, who like Mr. Palme drummed up a vision of conservative threats to health and other essential services during her highly successful campaign, said on Monday Mr. Palme had won by defending the welfare state.

Both Norway's Labour opposition and Mr. Palme's Social Democrats in Sweden put conservatives on the defensive by portraying them as favouring a society where the jobless, the handicapped and the elderly would

suffer and where only money could buy care.

The message, reinforced in Sweden by Mr. Palme's claims, that conservative policies would lead to the kind of rioting which broke out in Britain last week, appealed to the strongly egalitarian traditions of both countries.

The Swedish conservatives, who had promised massive tax rebates in one of the world's most heavily taxed countries, lost 10 of their 86 seats in parliament and their share of the vote declined to 21.3 per cent from 23.6 per cent in 1982.

As in Sweden, the conservatives in Norway blamed their setback on the Social Democrats' success in projecting an image of an uncaring right bent on slashing social services.

But voters in both Scandinavian countries also... and their back on any 'change in economic policy.

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Saudis reportedly cleared Tornado deal with U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — Saudi Arabia decided to spend \$4 billion to purchase British-made aircraft after the Saudis had been assured that President Reagan would not object, the New York Times reported Monday.

The Times, quoting unidentified Saudi sources, said King Fahd had been concerned that the United States, which is Saudi Arabia's principal arms supplier, not be angered by the switch to the British warplanes.

Mr. Reagan last December promised the Saudis some 40 to 48 U.S. F-15 fighters, but the sale has been held up because of strong Israeli-backed opposition in Congress, the Times said.

The White House was informed during the summer of Riyadh's interest in purchasing 48 Tornado fighter planes and 30 Hawk trainers from Britain because of Washington's inability to proceed with the F-15 sales, the Times quoted the Saudi sources as saying.

British Ministry of Defence Sunday said only that an agreement in principle had been reached to supply aircraft.

The purchase of the British aircraft was ahead "after President Reagan assured King Fahd that the United States would not object to the sale," the Times reported, quoting Saudi sources as making the statement Sunday.

After Mr. Reagan indicated in a letter to King Fahd that he sympathised with the Saudi predicament, the negotiations with Britain were concluded, the Saudi sources told the Times.

Saudi Arabia decided to go ahead with the British deal, the Times quoted Saudi sources as saying, and "not to endure another potentially bruising fight with Israel's supporters in Congress, who have already announced their opposition to any new arms sales

to the Saudis until they openly support negotiations with Israel for a Middle East peace."

The Saudi deal should mean orders for the consortium of British, West German and Italian companies involved in building the Tornado, a spokesman for British Aerospace said.

British Aerospace expected to build the components as well as assembling the aircraft. Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of West Germany and Aeritalia of Italy would also be involved in building components, he told Reuters.

He could not confirm reports in the Sunday Times that the order was for 48 Tornado fighter aircraft and 30 Hawk trainers, nor confirm the value of the contract, but said it was likely that Saudi Arabia would also be ordering other weapons systems.

The Ministry of Defence has so far said only that agreement in principle had been reached to supply aircraft. A spokesman said Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz would visit Britain later this month to sign the agreement.

Israel has denounced the planned sale, along with what it said were British intentions to supply weapons to Jordan, accusing London of undermining stability in the Middle East.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is due to hold talks with King Hussein in a visit to Amman this week.

Reports that Saudi Arabia might make part-payment for the deal in oil have provoked anxiety that if Britain, itself a major oil

producer, were to resell the oil, it could depress already weak prices.

Saudi Arabia is reported to have carried out at least one such barter deal before as part of a contract for Boeing 747s.

A barter deal with Britain would "damage the oil market, as the Boeing deal did, by pouring more oil into a glutted market," the Financial Times Monday quoted a senior oil industry executive as saying.

But the British Aerospace spokesman said that as the deal had been arranged on a government-to-government basis, the company would be paid in cash by the British government.

The contract would guarantee job security at the company's aircraft plant, he said. Existing Tornado orders would have meant a gap in production after 1988 to 1989.

Robert Atkins, Conservative member of parliament for the northern England area where the British Aerospace's military aircraft operation is based, welcomed Britain having "beaten the world" on the contract.

The order was thought to have been won in the face of competition from the United States and France.

His dismissed Israel's condemnation by saying: "We are talking about simple straight-forward arms sales. I'm prepared to sell arms to anyone who wants to buy them who are not enemies of Britain."

British Aerospace sold eight air-defence Tornado aircraft to Oman in August. But the spokesman could not say whether it expected any more orders from Gulf Arab states.

Both Saudi Arabia and Oman are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which has been reported to be taking steps to form a joint strike force for the region.



LEBANESE INSPECT DAMAGE: Lebanese army officers inspect damage caused by rockets and mortars fired at the Al Jabba army barracks in Tripoli early Monday in fierce fighting between the pro-Syrian Arab Democratic Party and the pro-Palestinian Tawheed militia. At least 28 people died (AP wirephoto)

Ershad visits UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Monday for talks with President Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan expected to focus on the Gulf war and bilateral ties.

The Emirates News Agency (WAM) said Gen. Ershad flew in from Jeddah, where he attended a meeting of an Islamic Peace Committee seeking ways to end the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war. Diplomats said he would discuss the war with Sheikh Zaid, as well as Middle East developments and bilateral ties.

Abu Dhabi, one of seven emirates forming the UAE and ruled by Sheikh Zaid, is a major aid donor to Bangladesh through the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development. Bangladesh and the UAE also have a joint commission for economic cooperation. Gen. Ershad was expected to fly home after a short visit, WAM said.

Israel increasing reliance on Palestinian labourers

By Jonathan Immanuel
Associated Press

TEL AVIV — When Muslim Arab employees took three days off for the Eid Al Adha holiday last month, advertisements in Israel's daily newspapers appealed for volunteers to sweep the streets and pick up garbage of the Jewish town of Herzliya.

The ad, which drew 250 volunteers, reflected Mayor Eli Landau's frustration that his city, like many others in Israel, depends on the daily labour of Palestinian inhabitants of the territories Israel has occupied since the 1967 Middle East war.

Mr. Landau fears that Palestinians who live under Israeli military rule could one day strike for political reasons and paralyse city services and industries.

Other Israelis, however, believe that the Israeli state strengthens its hold on the occupied territories by employing so many Palestinians.

Prosperity in Israel may be a boon to the Arabs, but depression is always mirrored in the Arab economy.

At dawn Palestinian labourers stream out of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in trucks, buses and cars to do the jobs that Israelis, despite increasing unemployment, consider too menial.

"Other countries have guest workers, but they don't invite people with hostile political views to work there. If the Jews do not take their fate into their hands, it will be very bad for them," Mr. Landau, of the right-wing Likud Party, said in an interview from Herzliya, a seaside city north of Tel Aviv.

Israel's deepening reliance on the Palestinians can be verified by the figures.

Israeli cities and industries employ 38 per cent of the labour force from the occupied territories, or 92,000 Palestinians, up from 12 per cent in 1970. Palestinian businesses sell six times as much to Israel as to Jordan, according to those figures.

Surveys conducted by several newspapers indicate that 75 per cent of the building labourers, 30 per cent of the textile workers, 16 per cent of the farm workers and more than half of the fruit pickers

are Palestinian day labourers.

An estimated one-third of the labourers have no work permits. The employer pays no social benefits like pension funds, and the worker pays no income tax.

Labour black markets have developed at main junctions just outside the Gaza Strip, near Jerusalem's Damascus Gate and other locations in the West Bank where employers pick up a van-load of workers for the day, week or month.

Tawfiq Shapahad, a 38-year-old father of five from the West Bank town of Jenin, said he prefers to work illegally, even though the pay is less.

Shapahad earns \$10 a day and travels 112 kilometres to work and back. In a month of 20 working days he can just make the legal minimum wage. Unlike Palestinians working legally, he gets no child allowance from the government and no sick leave.

Palestinians wash dishes in five-star hotels, operate gasoline pumps, chop food in restaurants. Some have moved into middle-level management jobs, particularly in Israeli-run hotels in Jerusalem.

Hassan Khalil, 35, a Gaza carpenter working in Tel Aviv, said he considered working abroad. "I could earn in a day in Saudi Arabia what I earn in a month here. But there they could kick me out when they don't want. Here is where I live, my family lives and I have a plot of land."

Several thousand workers sleep illegally in factories or on building sites to spare them hours of daily travel. One worker was killed recently when he fell in his sleep from a high floor of an uncompleted building.

The Palestinians say there is little work in their own towns. A report this year by the Geneva-based International Labour Organisation charged that the Israeli authorities were "not very inclined to approve development projects" in the West Bank or Gaza Strip to compete with Israeli businesses.

Some liberal Israeli observers say that the employment of cheap labour may be harming Israeli productivity.

New flare-up kills 34 in N. Lebanon.

BEIRUT (Agencies) — At least 34 people were killed and 73 wounded in fierce fighting between pro-Syrian militiamen and Islamic fundamentalists in the north Lebanese port city of Tripoli on Monday, security sources told Reuters.

A Lebanese army communiqué said 10 soldiers were among the dead, killed when their barracks were shelled at dawn.

An all-party security committee including Syrian officers had failed to halt intermittent fighting after more than 15 hours, the sources said.

The clashes paralysed the city as shops closed and sniper fire cut roads around districts engulfed by fighting.

It was the worst violence since the two-year-old on-again-off-again war between Tawheed, which is made up mostly of Sunni Muslims, and the Arabians, who are predominantly Alawites, an offshoot of Islamic sect.

The army was not involved in the fighting and has sat on the sidelines while the militias shot it out. Police officials said they believed the mortar rounds that caused the army casualties were stray shells.

The fighting forced a total shutdown of the city's schools, government offices, banks, cafes and shops. The oil refinery at the harbour also came to a standstill, police reported.

In Beirut, civil war antagonists traded sniper fire across the capital's dividing green line Monday. All crossings between the mostly Muslim western and mainly Christian eastern sectors of Beirut remained closed to traffic for a second week, causing bread and gasoline shortages.

Police sources, who declined to be named, said the predominantly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia was behind the closure to pressure rivals into releasing more than a score of Christian civilians kidnapped in the western sector. Lebanese take time off for cultural festival, page 5

Telephone reports from Tripoli said mortar shells and Soviet-made Grad rockets rained on the densely populated districts of Baal Mohsen, Bab Al-Tabbaneh and Shaarani thir-

dered by Israeli authorities to be fairly radical.

Levy has invited Dr. Khalak to a meeting to air his objections.

Two merchants in the market of the Old City of Jerusalem meanwhile were arrested for possessing inflammatory propaganda material, and reportedly attacked the Border Police patrol as it was trying to arrest them. The patrol fired two warning shots in the air during the incident — Jerusalem Post.

Newspaper says Iran to keep on searching ships

TEHRAN (R) — Iran will continue to search Kuwaiti ships for cargo bound for Iraq despite a protest by Kuwait to the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the Islamic Republic newspaper said Monday.

"It is in Kuwait's interest to stay away from this affair and sit in its place, because Islamic Iran has made its decision in this respect and nothing... will have the slightest effect on that," the newspaper said in an editorial.

"Kuwait wants to vouch for Iraq and acts as a partner in the current aggressive war, yet it hopes to avoid the consequences of its involvement. But that is not possible," it said.

Islamic Republic is not an official government newspaper, but it reflects some Iranian foreign policy thinking.

Kuwait has come under repeated attack in the Iranian press recently for expelling more than 1,000 Iranian workers in the last two months after bomb explosions at restaurants in the emirate, and because of financial aid it has given Iraq.

The Iranian Navy has stopped six cargo ships, including three Kuwaiti-flag vessels, in the Gulf so far this month to search them for cargo destined for Iraq.

Turkish Cypriots make foreign recognition top priority

By Tod Robberson
Reuters

NICOSIA — The self-proclaimed "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" has made gaining international recognition its top priority now that it has adopted a constitution and completed elections aimed at establishing its legitimacy.

Turkish Cypriots have had to cope with virtual isolation since 1974, when mainland Turkish troops invaded Cyprus after a coup backed by Greece's then-ruling military junta. Thousands of Turkish troops have remained in the north ever since.

The internationally-recognised government in the south, run by Greek Cypriots, advocates isolation of the north until Turkey withdraws.

But while long-running U.N.-led negotiations for a settlement drag on, many nations, including members of the European Community, are beginning to relax restraints on trade and cultural ties

with the north.

"Today we are as good a state as the one in the south," Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş said in a recent magazine interview. "We are on the road to recognition as a full-fledged state."

Turkish Cypriot officials say they have found it easier to deal with foreign governments since the elections in the north earlier this summer.

"The idea that a state exists here is starting to catch on," one official said.

Others admitted, however, that there were still many obstacles to international recognition. Many nations sympathetic to the Turkish Cypriot cause did not want to damage relations with the Cypriot government, they said.

Diplomats say recognition for the north — Turkey is still the only country to have recognised its November 1983 independence declaration — is a distant prospect.

Both sides are still competing

for the favour of foreign governments, most noticeably in the Arab World where sympathies often run high for the Muslim-dominated north, they add.

In August, tourists from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fled the island after scores of Greek Cypriot youths attacked Arab tourists in the resort city of Limassol.

Fearing Turkish Cypriots might try to exploit the attacks for propaganda purposes, President Spyros Kyprianou sent envoys to Arab capitals to assure their leaders there was no anti-Arab sentiment here.

Senior Turkish Cypriot officials deny the north directly lobbies foreign governments to establish diplomatic relations, but say de facto recognition is welcome.

Finance and economy undersecretary Onur Borman said foreign trade was a major source of de facto recognition. Trade with the European Community last year totalled \$111 million, accounting for 85 per cent of Turkish Cypriot exports and 55 per cent of

imports, she said.

Turkish Cypriot exports must carry the republic's official stamp, according to Ahmet Fugurt, administrative manager of the main port for the north at Famagusta. Despite claims, by the Cypriot government that the port operates illegally, it has established trade ties with shippers in 62 countries.

Japanese-flag ships carrying cars and electronic goods dock there twice monthly and firms registered in Italy, Britain and Switzerland keep offices at its free-trade zone, he said.

The Istanbul-based passenger ship Yersilada docks weekly at Famagusta to ferry Turkish Cypriots to the Syrian port of Latakia, where they can take one-day trips using Turkish Cypriot passports.

A Syrian embassy spokesman insisted the ferry service did not imply that Damascus recognised the north. "We do not stamp visas in passports of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus and we do not recognise it," he said.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 77311-19

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 — Koran
17:30 — Caribian
17:40 — Children Programs
18:30 — Documentary
19:00 — Local Programs
19:30 — Program Review
19:40 — News Program
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Arabic Series
21:10 — Tomorrow's Programs
21:30 — Arabic Series
22:00 — News in Arabic
22:30 — Series Comed.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme: des chiffres de lettres

18:30 — In chance aux chances

19:00 — News in French

19:30 — Le vent du large

19:50 — News in Hebrew

20:00 — News in Arabic

20:30 — Kate and Allie

21:10 — For the Term of His Natural Life

22:00 — News in English

22:15 — Feature Film: Dallas

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & parity on 95.50 KHz. SW 77411-19

07:00 — Light Music

07:30 — News Desk

08:00 — Morning Show

08:30 — News Summary

09:00 — Morning Show Contd.

10:00 — Pop Session Contd.

10:30 — News Summary

11:00 — Pop Session Contd.

11:30 — News Summary

12:00 — Date with a Star

12:30 — News Summary

13:00 — Evening Show Contd.

13:30 — News Summary

14:00 — Evening Show Contd.

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Home news

Jordan celebrates Hijri New Year

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan along with the Arab League and Islamic World, Monday celebrated the Hijri New Year.

To mark the occasion, religious celebrations were held in mosques around the country. The main celebration was held Sunday afternoon at the Hussein Mosque, downtown Amman, during which leading religious leaders and prominent scholars spoke of the meaning and the lessons to be learnt from the Prophet Muhammad's struggles to establish an Islamic society.

On the occasion, His Majesty King Hussein Monday received cables of good wishes from Arab kings and heads of state wishing him health and happiness, and prosperity and progress for the Jordanian people.

Cables of good wishes came from the heads of state of Morocco, Oman, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, Bahrain and from the Arab League Secretary General, Mr. Chadli Kibbi.

On Sunday, the Royal Court received cables of good wishes addressed to the King from senior government officials and high-ranking army officers.

Majali appoints attaches to 4 capitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali has transferred several ministry officials abroad to serve as Cultural Attaches in various foreign capitals.

The officials are the director of education in Ajloun, Mohammad Hammad Ali Jaradat, to Belgrade; Yusef Al-Karak, to the Karak Education Department personnel manager, Ahmad Musallam, to Syria; Al Su'ob, to Damascus; Syria, the assistant financial manager Mustafa Mahgoub Al Farah, to Bonn, West Germany; and Zaid Al-Zaid, to Moscow.

Yarmouk University accepts 2,600 new students

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University has accepted 2,600 students who enrolled for the first-year courses at various faculties for the 1985-86 academic year.

A university spokesman said the students were enrolled in six groups and the lowest grade acceptance was 80 per cent.

An additional 600 students for evening courses and post graduate studies will be registered in the coming few days, thus raising the total number of accepted students for this academic year to 3,200, the spokesman said.

The university will re-open its doors on Sept. 22.

On Sunday, the University of Jordan announced that it completed a process for the registration of new students in 13 faculties for the coming academic year.

With the new additions, the number of students enrolled at the university now stands at 11,500, according to university President Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Dr. Majali was addressing a meeting with new students in which he said that 50 seats have been assigned for students from each governorate in a bid to be fair with students in all regions and to give them equal opportunities.

In addition, he said, the university will accept 1,300 post graduate students in various specialisations.

Dr. Majali told the students that 35 per cent of Jordan's population are students at school, community colleges or universities here and abroad, and 400,000 Jordanians are employed in various Arab countries and are helping in their development.

So far, he said, Jordan has turned out 23,000 graduates part of whom are being employed in these Arab countries and it is hoped that the new students will be able to make their own contribution towards developing their country.



Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher greets His Majesty King Hussein at her official London residence, 10 Downing Street. They met four times in 1984.

Thatcher's visit underlines special relationship between Jordan, U.K.

By Charles E. Skinner

LONDON — The visit to Jordan by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is part of a continuing interchange between the two countries that underlines their special relationship.

Both His Majesty King Hussein and Mrs. Thatcher attach much importance to personal contact at top level, and Anglo-Jordanian relations are excellent proof of the rewards to be gained from a common commitment to international understanding.

Like any other fruitful endeavour, such a relationship is the result of constructive input. It does not simply just happen. A glance back over the past year or so points to the importance that both nations place on close contacts.

Members of the Jordanian Royal family, including His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, are frequent visitors to Britain. King Hussein called on Mrs. Thatcher in London four times during 1984, and the state visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh to Jordan in March of this year was a great success.

Mr. Michael Heseltine, Britain's secretary of state for defence, also visited Jordan in October 1984, and the then Foreign and Commonwealth Minister Richard Luce, who accompanied the Queen, had already been to the country the previous November.

Valuable stability

King Hussein's personal rapport with Mrs. Thatcher is known to be particularly close. It was cemented by the support Jordan gave to Britain in the United Nations Security Council after the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands in 1982, when the two leaders spoke on the tel-

ephone. This rapport is not only valuable to Jordan and Britain. Both King Hussein and Mrs. Thatcher play important roles in international affairs and see the stability of their respective countries as a valuable influence in relations between more troubled states.

Britain remains deeply concerned about the Arab-Israeli dispute as a dangerous threat to peace in an area of great importance to Europe. For his part, King Hussein enjoys good relations with the European Community viewing it as a counterbalance to the two superpowers.

Mrs. Thatcher's government believes King Hussein deserves its fullest support in attempts to achieve a Middle East peace settlement. Britain has stressed that progress depends on the parties themselves and with her partners in the European Community, in which she plays a very active role. Britain, on the basis of the balanced approach, continues to urge the parties to move forward towards negotiations.

The British view is that the United States' role continues to be of central importance.

Against this background, Mrs. Thatcher and her ministers watch with great interest the efforts being made by King Hussein, in consultation principally with Egypt and other Arab countries, and with some Palestinian leaders, with a view to putting forward proposals to provide a basis for discussion. The King is keeping the British fully informed.

Trade links

It is not only on international affairs however that Anglo-Jordanian links are close. Trade relations between them are another healthy aspect of the bond. Indeed British exports to Jordan have grown substantially over the years and the United Kingdom is among the leading suppliers, along with the United States, West Germany and Saudi Arabia.

Geneva conference backs Israeli Arab struggle to gain equal rights with Jews

By Hamadeh Al Far'neh
Special to the Jordan Times

GENEVA — A four-day conference by non-governmental organisations in 97 nations concluded here by voicing support for Israeli Arab struggle to gain equal rights with Israeli Jews, and decided to support endeavours by Arab living under Israeli rule since 1948 to be regarded as part of the rest of the Palestinian people.

The recommendation was contained in the conference's final communiqué which voiced strong support for the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom.

The communiqué said that the delegates responded favourably to a motion, presented by the Nazarene, Tawfiq Ziyad in occupied Palestine, who is also a member of the Israeli parliament (the Knesset), and backed by the Sri Lankan delegate, which called for granting the Arab people of Palestine equal rights.

But, according to conference sources, Knesset member Matshiaha Peled opposed the motion because he alleged that Israeli Arabs were treated on the same footing as Israeli Jews.

The conference, attended by 150 delegates and representatives of various organisations around the world, voiced their support for their total solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just struggle for establishing their independent state.

The final communiqué also voi-

ced total support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

It said that the only way to resolve the Middle East question was through an international conference to be held under United Nations supervision and in which all parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict should participate including the PLO and the two superpowers.

The conference urged all world organisations and peace-loving people to intensify efforts to convene an international conference on the Middle East.

The conference also voiced its condemnation of Israel's policies against the Arab people in the occupied territories and its programmes of establishing settlements on confiscated Arab land.

It also condemned Israel's eviction of Arab people from their homes, demolishing Arab homes and exercising arbitrary measures against them.

The conference also condemned Israel's collaboration with the racist regime in Pretoria and called for intensified efforts to bring about total peace in the Middle East which will be conducive to establishing peace world-wide.

The conference decided to refer its resolutions to the forthcoming U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York for debate.

Meanwhile, an international

British sales last year were worth more than £192 million and included power generating plant, electrical machinery, metal manufactures, scientific and control equipment, specialised and general machinery. Around 50 British firms have regional or local offices in Amman.

The trade is of course two way. Jordan's exports to Britain tripled between 1980 and 1982 with Britain's main imports being foodstuffs, together with reexports of industrial machinery and petroleum products.

In addition, Britain maintains an aid programme to Jordan. Some £3 million is expected to be disbursed this year in capital aid together with a further £1 million for technical cooperation.

The British Council, active in English language teaching, also seeks to develop links between British and Jordanian cultural and educational institutions. In 1983-84, about 750 Jordanians were studying at British universities and other institutes of higher education.

Military links

King Hussein himself has experience of the British educational system. He attended Victoria College, The English-style public school in Alexandria, and then Harrow, one of Britain's most famous schools. After ascending to the throne in 1952, he returned to England to attend the Military College of Sandhurst.

On that note, it is worth observing that the Jordanian Army uses British defence equipment and maintains close links with Britain's armed forces.

The development of Anglo-Jordanian relations, therefore, is a continuing process that shows every sign of going from strength to strength, not least because the perception of its great value is entirely mutual.

The writer is political correspondent for London Press Service.

Jordan's tobacco industry suffers decline in sale

Director blames fall on import of cigarettes and ban on advertising in local press

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian tobacco industry has suffered a serious setback due to last year's decision to lift the ban on the import of foreign cigarettes and a governmental ban on advertisements of cigarettes in the local media, according to a senior executive of Jordan's only cigarette manufacturing company.

Ali Sa'd, managing director of Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette Corporation Limited, told the Jordan Times this week that the imports of foreign cigarettes, which the government allowed a year ago, and the inability of the company to match the advertising campaign of foreign cigarettes have led to a one-per cent decline in the factory's sales over the last year.

"In fact the effects were catastrophic because in real terms the decline is greater," Mr. Sa'd said. Mr. Sa'd explained that over the last 20 years cigarettes sales have been achieving an average of six to seven per cent increase every year. But by the end of August this year, the sales registered, in real terms, amounted to around seven to eight per cent, Mr. Sa'd said.

The former government of Mr. Ahmad Obaidat lifted the ban on the import of foreign cigarettes following a long and a heated public debate last year, in an attempt to curb smuggling of foreign cigarettes into the country and to benefit from the taxes imposed on the imported tobacco products.

Last month, however, the government of Mr. Zaid Al Rifai made a tilt towards protectionist economic measures to encourage Jordan's infant industries, and decided to ban the imports of products similar to the locally produced ones.

The protective measures have not included the tobacco industry, and a senior official in the Ministry of Supply, who spoke on condition of anonymity said that there were no changes so far regarding the government's previous decision to allow the import of a certain quota of foreign cigarettes.

But, Mr. Sa'd said that even

with the present restricted quota, the local tobacco industry is hurt by the import of foreign cigarettes and urged the government to reassess its decision.

One of the arguments for lifting the ban on importing foreign cigarettes last year was that it would contribute to improving the quality of local cigarettes through the competition provided by foreign cigarettes. But Mr. Sa'd asserted that there could be "no fair or adequate competition" under the prevailing conditions, especially that while the Jordanian tobacco company is not allowed to run advertisements and commercials in the local press and media, foreign and pan-Arab magazines and newspapers are allowed to Jordan splashed with colourful and big advertisements of leading foreign brands that compete with the seven local brands.

The issue of the "unfair competition" has recently figured high in the local press amid calls to allow advertisements of local cigarettes brands in Jordanian newspapers. The government, under then Prime Minister Mudar Badran, had banned those advertisements in accordance with regulations adopted some years ago.

Appeals and calls to rescind the regulations covering local advertising for tobacco products have sparked a public debate on the issue in Jordan. No sooner had one popular columnist for Al Ra'i daily, Salah Abdul Samad, in one of his columns, called on the government to do away with the regulations, than the Jordanian Society for the Fight against Smoking called for a total ban on pan-Arab magazines which carry "sensational advertisements" for cigarettes.

But, Mr. Sa'd said that even

Dr. Zuhair Malhas, president of the society, in a letter published on Aug. 26 in the same column in Al Ra'i, condemned "the strange regulations which prevent advertisements of cigarettes in the local press and yet allow the entry of intruding magazines which run flashy advertisements" of an identical nature.

Dr. Malhas, a former health minister, noted that the Council of Arab Health Ministers appealed during its seventh session in Sana'a in 1982 to Arab health ministries to ban advertisements of tobacco products in the Arab press.

The appeal was reiterated in another decision endorsed by the technical committee of the Council of Arab Health Ministers in Damascus two years later, Dr. Malhas added.

Noting that most Arab magazines have not responded to the appeal, Dr. Malhas urged the health minister to maintain the ban on cigarette advertisements in the local media and to prevent Arab magazines and newspapers which carry such advertisements from entering the country.

But a senior official of the Publication and Press Department told the Jordan Times later that such a demand "is virtually impossible to carry out."

"We have no authority on Arab magazines and newspapers and we cannot ask them not to run cigarette advertisements," the official, who asked not to be named, said. "We cannot possibly censor these magazines and newspapers for such reasons."

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, who has played a leading role in combating smoking in Jordan, was said to be the debate by announcing, in a letter published in the Al Ra'i on Sept. 4, that he "would exert all efforts to transform the previous appeal by the Council of Arab Health Ministers into a law banning advertisements of tobacco products in all Arab publications and censoring Arab magazines and newspapers which do not oblige."

The minister launched a severe attack against Europe-based



Ali Fared Sa'd, pan-Arab magazines which he described to be "commercial" and accused of running advertisements for the most widely smuggled brands of cigarettes in the Arab World.

Dr. Hamzeh also pledged to keep the prohibition on cigarettes advertisements in the local media "as part of the ministry's campaign to curb smoking which has proven to cause cancer and to be hazardous to people's health."

Mr. Sa'd, who said that he had carefully followed the debate in the press, expressed support for the health minister's suggestions and views. He said his company is aware of the decisions endorsed by the Council of Arab Health Ministers and other international health organisations regarding cigarette advertisements and "we totally abide by them."

But he pointed out that the current conditions are "just unfair to the Jordanian tobacco industry". "How can we possibly compete with multinational corporations that can spend huge amounts of money on commercials and advertisements?" Mr. Sa'd asked. "It is even worse that under the present conditions these corporations are allowed to campaign through the pan-Arab press in our own local market," he said.

"Therefore, we surely do support a law banning cigarette advertisements in all the Arabic press, particularly that most, if not all, of those advertisements are for international brands," Mr. Sa'd said. "Experts in Jordan who are engaged in the battle against smoking agree that passing a law prohibiting advertisements of tobacco products in the Arabic and pan-Arab press would contribute to curbing smoking, particularly among the younger generation, but they argue that 'it would not be enough'."

"There is no doubt that such a law is a necessity," said one. "But any such move should be part of an organised Arab campaign against smoking."

'No planned Arafat talks with Habash or Hawatneh'

(Continued from page 1)

Arafat-Hawatneh-Habash meeting in the immediate future.

Contacted by telephone from Amman, the Fateh official, who is currently in Tunis, told the Jordan Times that "such a meeting is not likely to take place soon."

However, the official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition that he was not identified, said Khalil Al Wazir, deputy military commander of the PLO, was scheduled to meet Mr. Hawatneh, who arrived in Algiers on Saturday, "in the next 24 hours."

Mr. Wazir (Abu Jihad) was in the Algerian capital on Sunday for talks with the Algerian government on "issues pertaining to the deficit in Arab funds allocated for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories", but returned to Tunis late Sunday, the official said. The PLO deputy commander was expected to return to Algiers for the scheduled meeting with Mr. Hawatneh, the official added.

An Amman-based official of the DFLP refused to deny or confirm the planned Wazir-Hawatneh meeting but said if such a meeting takes place "it would only be aimed at exchanging views, for the DFLP has not changed its position towards the Feb. 11 agreement," between the PLO and Jordan.

An Amman-based DFLP official who spoke to the Jordan Times on Monday refuted Sunday's Reuters report from Algiers and said "there could be no real reconciliation between the DFLP and Fateh without a prior agreement on a political platform for the reunification of the PLO."

Azmi Al Khawaja, a PFLP official who lives in Amman, described the report as "groundless" and said "there could be no talks with Fateh officials unless they abandoned the Feb. 11 agreement."

PLO officials told the Jordan Times two weeks ago that the Soviet Union had called on all Palestinian factions to reunite under an "anti-imperialist" front.

Jordan, Syria agree to buy 50 more trucks for joint transport company

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan and Syria have ended talks on the performance and activities of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company, and officials from both sides signed minutes of joint meetings which began here, on Saturday.

At a meeting of the company's general assembly the two sides agreed in their talks to purchase 50 additional lorries to boost the company's operations, after the approval of the company's board of directors and the endorsement of the decision by the transport ministers of both countries.

The two sides also decided to complete the payment of the company's still unpaid capital over the coming eight years and to collect debts due to the company from a number of Syrian transport com-

panies. Both sides also emphasised the need for granting the joint company priority in transporting goods for public organisations from and to ports in both countries and in accordance with current rates.

They decided also to complete a process of building the company's installations and other buildings at Tartous and Al Qastal in Syria, and to purchase an office for the company in Damascus.

The company's general assembly also decided to exempt the company from paying customs duty and other fees for 10 years, starting from 1986, and to allocate JD 250,000 from this year's budget for the purchase of spare parts for the company's trucks and other vehicles.

Jordanian and Syrian Ministers of Transport Farhi Obaid and Yusef Ahmad, who signed the minutes, stressed in brief speeches the need for exerting more efforts to make the company achieve further success.

The joint company was established in 1976 with a total capital of JD 8 million of which only JD 5 million have been paid up. The company now owns 360 trucks which operate between the two countries.

Mr. Obaid Monday returned to Amman at the end of his three-day visit to Syria.

In a statement upon arrival, he said that his talks with Syrian officials on transport cooperation were positive, and were bound to give further momentum to the progress of the joint company.

Cement companies decide to merge

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two major companies in Jordan, the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) and the South Cement Company (SCC) will merge into a single firm, in accordance with a decision taken at a JCFC general assembly meeting here.

The decision for merger was taken Sunday despite strong opposition by many of the shareholders who foresaw grim prospects for the merged company in view of the heavy losses which the SCC has sustained over the past five years.

Former JCFC Manager Shawkat Shoul told the heated meeting that he opposed the merger because the SCC was expected to sustain a JD 11 million loss in its 1985 operations alone, and that as a result of poor management in the past and debts, he expects the loss of the company after the merger to reach JD 47 million.

Mr. Shoul said that JCFC in contrast realised JD 8.8 million profit in 1984 and was expected to make JD 64 million over the next five years.

Furthermore, he said, the SCC is bound to bridle any trend towards making profits in the future due to that company's bad planning, unfavourable location and faulty designs of the SCC factory which was established in 1980.

He told the meeting that the SCC has concluded a contract for selling cement to Egypt at a loss, and explained by saying that the

cost of producing one tonne of cement now stands at \$20.6 while the net price to be charged will be \$21 a tonne and that a similar contract for selling cement to Saudi Arabia was much the same.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Abdul Majid Qasem who heads a committee supervising the work of JCFC and attended by representatives of the company's management, shareholders and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

A total of 81 shareholders who own 14 million shares attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Qasem said that the government was determined to go ahead with the merger in response to the desire of the shareholders and no need to the benefits of such merger

for the national economy. Among those who opposed the merger was Mohammad Ali Budair who led 26 shareholders out of the meeting in protest.

The voting revealed that those who held 12 million of the company's shares, a majority of the general assembly, are willing to approve the merger. But it was noticed that the shares owned by the government were instrumental in arriving at the decision.

Some of the shareholders who oppose the merger were overheard as saying that they will take their case to the court to settle the issue.

The board of directors of the SCC is due to hold a meeting in Amman on Tuesday to discuss the merger issue.

Austria urges boosting cultural ties with Jordan

KREMS (J.T.) — The president of the Austrian Folklore Federation has spoken of the need for further bolstering Jordanian-Austrian cultural relations in an interview conducted here with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Alexander Veigl who is also president of the International Organisation for Folklore said that the cultural relations are bound to build bridges of friendship between the Arab and

Austrian people. Mr. Veigl said that the Austrian Folklore troupe will take part in the 5th Jerash Festival for Arts and Culture due to take place at the Greco-Roman city in the summer of 1986.

Referring to a Jordanian folk troupe's participation in an annual cultural event held in Krems recently, Mr. Veigl said that it was an important step towards strengthening cultural relations.

By Mohammad Saleh Jaber

GUEST COLUMN

Government economic policy — on track

IT WOULD be quite useful to have a quick revision of the series of government measures undertaken over the past four months in the economic sector. A revision is bound to reveal to us what has been achieved and what parts of the King's letter of assignment to the government have been accomplished or would be so in the near future.

It is no secret that the government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai embarked on its mission with a well-defined programme designed to revive the national economy.

Though the past four months are not enough to make a full assessment of and judge the government's performance or achievements, yet we can say

that the government's relentless effort to implement its programme carries in it an indication of the future economic situation.

It should be pointed out, however, that no government could be expected to make miracles, and all that one can hope for now is to see the government working diligently and sincerely in carrying out measures to improve the economy with all the available means and resources.

Let us review in brief the set of measures that the government had announced in this respect and the steps taken to revive the economy.

The government started off by handling the transport sector in view of its importance to

the economy and because this sector is responsible for nearly 11 per cent of the gross national product, and offers vast opportunities for investments and employment for a great number of Jordanians and is a basic element in the flow of goods and travellers from and into Jordan.

The transport sector is also useful to other sectors of the economy like industry, agriculture, trade and financial services and, therefore, any failure in transport is bound to have an adverse impact on all these sectors, causing difficulties and problems.

In order to revive transport, the government has requested public and private sectors to come up with proposals aimed

at solving the present difficulties and problems encountered by that sector, and eventually the government issued instructions concerning axial weights for trucks and the related measures that were instrumental in improving the situation.

After transport, the government moved to revive the trade sector. It opened the way for merchants to import food supplies, a measure that had been the sole privilege of the ministry of supply. In so doing, the government has thus opened the way for refrigerator trucks to function again following years of idleness and losses.

The government then introduced measures aimed at

reviving the role of the real estate and lands which in the past attracted foreign currency transferred in by expatriates wishing to build homes and settle in the country. The money transfers by these expatriates were and still are taken into account by planners and economists because they actually form a good integral element in the national wealth.

The government afterwards turned its attention to the industrial sector, one that has to be revived and developed to enable it to absorb increasing number of unemployed Jordanians, specially those returning from the Gulf that has been hard hit by the world economic recession.

The government realises that industry can play a major role in the national economy by reducing the margin of the deficit in the balance of trade through helping to increase exports and reduce imports.

Indeed the industrial sector has succeeded in reducing the balance of trade deficit from JD 891 million in 1983 to JD 778 million in 1984, the lowest rate since 1980.

It should be said that those who welcome the government's measures are convinced that the way for free individual enterprise has been opened. This measure is bound to improve the economic climate as it forms a basic factor for reviving the national economy.

Eyes on Jeddah talks

THE DAYS when Saudi Arabia chose to leave inter-Arab disputes to simmer, rather than tackle them head on, are over, we hope, with the new drive by Riyadh to clear the Arab atmosphere ahead of the next ordinary Arab summit, scheduled for November of this year. Today, following the start of reconciliation talks between Jordan and Syria, we feel more confident and optimistic about the future of common Arab action if not about the very well-being of our nation.

The task of course is not easy, but there has never been, and there never will be, an alternative to restoring Arab solidarity as the most necessary tool for reasserting Arab presence and strength in all fields and at all levels. The Saudi leaders surely realise this. They always have. Why they have not moved in force before is their business. But, at any rate, we should be grateful that they are taking the initiative now, confident that they will spare no effort to make their mission of good will not only successful but also a programme of action for today and the future.

There are many and important differences in opinion and approach that have to be tackled by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Syrian counterpart, Abdul Raouf Al Kasm, in their meetings in Jeddah. Whether all the problems between our two sister countries can be cleared in one, two or even more sessions, we are not sure. But we can only share in the feeling of "reserved optimism" that is prevailing in Jordan about these talks today.

Evidently the Saudis, particularly Prince Abdullah, have to be deeply involved in the process of reconciliation if it is to succeed. Our differences with Syria are not personal, nor are they unconnected to the rest of problems plaguing the Arab World. In fact we have no other problem with the Syrians other than those that are tied directly and indirectly to our Arab brothers, whether they are the Palestinians or the Iraqis or the Lebanese.

Prince Abdullah knows the facts on the ground as they are. Without his personal intervention on the side of what is right and just, there can be little hope of achieving the much-needed progress that we all aspire for.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab solidarity

THE MEETING in Jeddah between the prime ministers of Jordan and Syria is the fruitful result of the mediation efforts conducted by an Arab League committee entrusted with reconciling Arab countries and ending their differences.

A look at the Arab situation reveals the great damage that had been caused to relations between Arab states because of their failure to come to agreement on basic and important issues and because they had allowed hostile forces to tamper with their affairs.

The meeting in Jeddah is looked on as a good opportunity for both countries to open a new chapter of fruitful cooperation instead of disputes and disagreement.

Amman and Damascus are called on to open a dialogue to pave the way for the common march. They are required to end all disputes and recriminations which give chance to the nation's enemies to penetrate our ranks and cause harm to our interests.

The two prime ministers meet on a holy land where they should approach common issues with open and pure hearts and work together for the best interest of their countries and for the whole Arab nation. They should start a process of reconciliation that would later open the door wide for joint action that can enhance Arab solidarity.

Al Dustour: Deportation and U.S. vetoes

ISRAEL'S DEPORTATION of 18 Arab citizens from the West Bank came as no surprise to us in view of the current escalation of its repressive measures against the Arab inhabitants under its occupation.

The expulsion shows the world that Israel is backed in its actions by the United States, which does not only extend military and financial help to the Zionist state but also covers up for its actions at international forums.

The Israeli measure against the 18 Arabs came close on the heel of a U.S. veto in the United Nations Security Council, killing a resolution that would have condemned Israel's actions against the Arab citizens and its expropriation of their homes and lands to build settlements.

The 18 deportees have been treated in an extreme inhuman manner and have been denied the right to live with their families in peace following a long imprisonment in Israeli jails in violation of the Convention and International Laws.

We call on the international community to intervene and put an end to Israel's arbitrary measures against our kinsmen now living under Zionist repression and occupation.

Sawt Al Shaab: On the meaning of Hijri

THE NEW HIRI year which the Arab and Islamic worlds celebrated Monday reminds us of the great ordeal which the Prophet Mohammad had gone through in his struggle to establish an Islamic society, united in faith and destiny.

The Hijri had a noble meaning which meant solidarity among brothers and unity in the face of challenges and dangers.

Today, the Arab and Islamic nations are going through very difficult circumstances which require them to mobilise their efforts and unify their ranks and end their differences.

The New Hijri year is an occasion that coincides this year with sincere efforts on the part of Arab leaders to bring about reconciliation and peace among their countries.

The meeting in Jeddah between the prime ministers of Jordan and Syria marks the beginning of a long road towards bolstering relations among Arab countries.

The New Hijri Year in an occasion for Muslims and Arabs to follow in the footsteps of the Prophet Mohammad and try to overcome all the difficulties and problems that they encounter in their quest to achieve noble goals.

Zealous Christian Zionists hold congress without the Israelis

By Charley J. Levine and Zev Golan

The Jerusalem Post

LAST WEEK in Basle, in the very same hall where Theodor Herzl 88 years ago convened the first Zionist congress, 600 world Christian leaders gathered to coordinate a massive political and economic mobilisation on Israel's behalf. They support Israel because they see the Jewish people's return to the land as biblical fulfilment in terms of their own belief. By conservative estimate there are more than 600 million of these Christians — voters, investors, purchasers of goods — in at least 75 countries.

They call their event the First International Christian Zionist Leadership Congress and it is organised by the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem. These people of faith and goodwill did not ask Israel for very much. They demanded no funding, no Jewish Agency tickets or bureaucratic *protékzia*. They wanted no dinners at the Knesset, no parades or rally permits. They didn't even want many Jews to present themselves since theirs is primarily a mission of support for Israel aimed at their fellow Christians.

But they did have a request: that one Israeli dignitary — not the prime minister, not seven or three ministers — come for a few hours, all expenses paid by the Christian community to bring greetings and encouragement to a hall crowded with people anxious to stand and applaud his deeply symbolic presence. How natural and fitting that the fruits of Herzl's labours — a living, breathing representative of the state of Israel — should come to address this force of millions whose only demand is a stronger Israel. All formal channels were properly pursued. The Christians turned first to the prime minister. Mr. Peres assured the organisers that the government, with its ample minions of 23 full ranking ministers, would find one amongst them to make the journey. Programmes were printed, media were alerted; Minister Moshe Arens was to be the wel-

come guest.

And the interest was there. A major American TV network based in Paris expressed interest in the minister's appearance. Correspondents in Geneva, Bonn, even London were interested in hearing and reporting on what this Israeli representative would have to say to 60 million Christians who believe that in the greater scheme of things, PLO terrorism is a greater threat to mankind than "racist" Zionism. Congress delegates looked forward to the recognition they were going to receive from this articulate former ambassador to Washington and former defence minister.

Then something happened. Maybe someone got nervous. Who knows? Without going through the gory details, cautious optimism gave way to serious doubt that the government would authorise Arens to go. Non-stop calls between the prime minister's office and the Christian Embassy proceeded, first from Jerusalem, later from Basle where the delegates had already begun to arrive.

On the previous Friday, the organisers were assured that Sunday's cabinet session would take up the issue and probably approve Arens's trip. So said any number of Prime Minister Peres's resident whiz kids. Sunday came, Sunday went. The issue was not raised in the cabinet. The Christians were provided with several different answers. Arens was not coming for personal reasons. Or, that he was not coming because of the ban of ministerial trips abroad — even though this particular one would not cost a *grush*, and would reach tens of millions through the media.

Finally the Israeli ambassador in Bern was convinced after difficult negotiations to make the 1½ hour ride to put in an appearance.

And so, 88 years after Herzl envisioned a Jewish state in Israel, history was once again made. A new kind of Zionism was born. Zionism without Israelis.

West Bank, Gaza strive for freedom

From TASS

"SAND BANKS edging with rows of palm-trees are the Israeli Hawaii," says a brochure published in Tel Aviv describing the Gaza Strip. It depicts the "earthly paradise" in which 3,000 Israeli settlers live in the area, but says nothing about the 600,000 Palestinians living there like in inferno, wrote V. Shevchenko in the newspaper Izvestia. Driven by the aggressors from their native lands, they have been forced to live in ghettos built of construction material waste. The density of population in those ghetto-camps is higher than anywhere in the world. Their residents have been plagued with poverty, disease and high child mortality. The plight of the West Bankers is no easier.

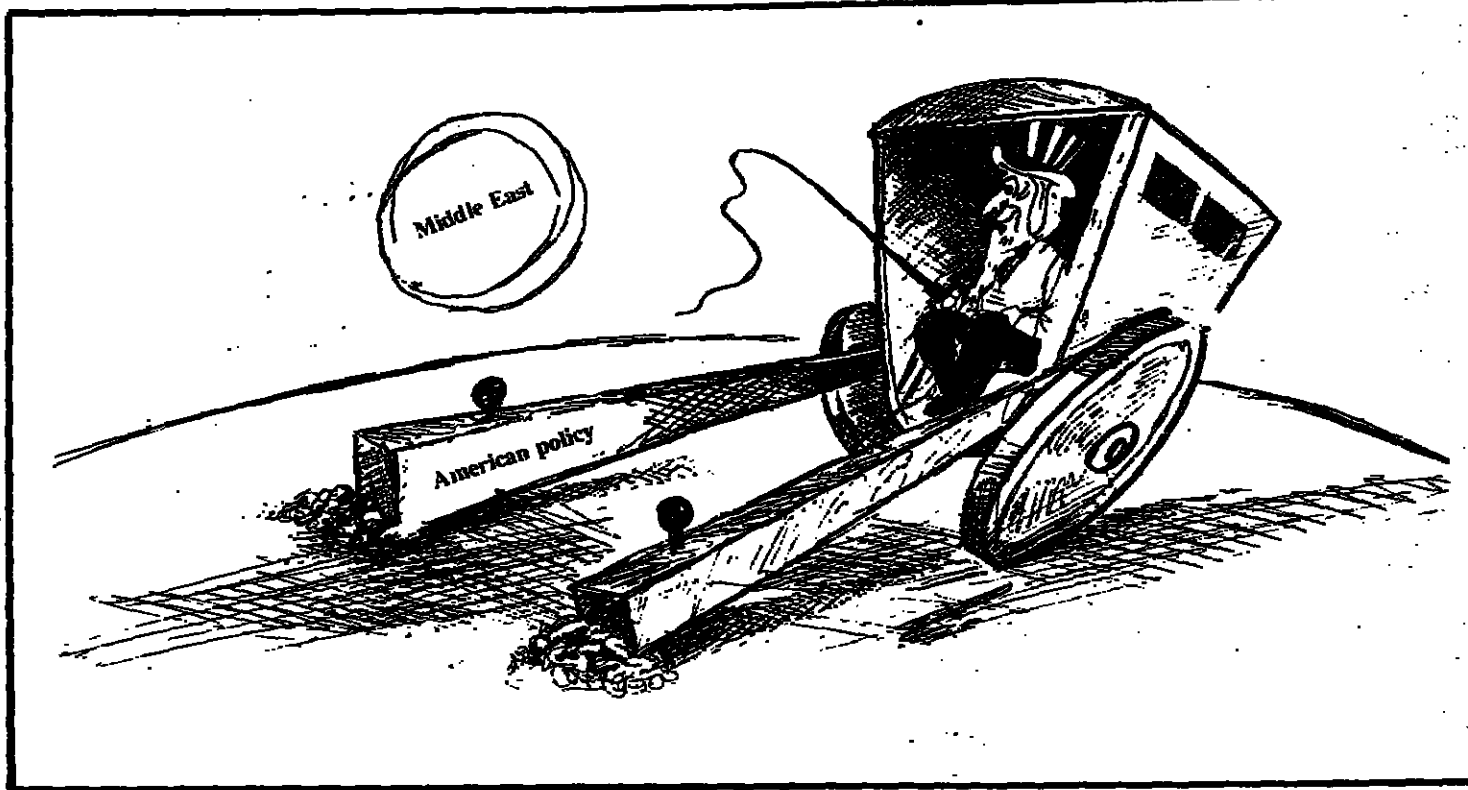
The Palestinian residents in the occupied lands are fiercely resisting the intrigues by Zionism. Daily reports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip say the Arabs are opposing the Israeli invaders, demanding that they be granted their right to self-determination and statehood.

The Israeli leaders, the article said, intend to deal with the Palestinian problem by exterminating

the Palestinians and driving them from their native lands. For all the arbitrary rule and lawlessness, the Zionist authorities recently have been vested with the right to deport Arab residents from the occupied territories without preliminary investigation and trial.

The Israeli criminal actions are encouraged by Washington which seeks to dominate the region while ignoring the interests of the Arabs, above all, the Palestinians, the paper said.

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Dutch launch last bid to keep Cruise out

By Dominique Jackson

Reuter

AMSTERDAM — With only weeks left before the Netherlands must decide on siting Cruise missiles, an anti-nuclear movement here has launched a mass petition in an 11th hour bid to keep the arms off Dutch soil.

The Anti-Cruise Committee (KKN) hopes to present millions of signatures to parliament next month before it decides on November 1 whether or not to accept 48 U.S. missiles.

The Netherlands is the last to make up its mind out of five European NATO countries earmarked for the medium-range weapons. Britain, West Germany, Italy and Belgium have already said yes.

The Dutch cabinet, threatened with a split on the issue in June 1984, decided to accept the missiles this November only if the number of Soviet SS-20 missiles deployed had risen from the total at the time of 378.

NATO puts the current Soviet arsenal at 423 and recent official statements here suggest the government now sees Cruise deployment as inevitable in the absence of real Soviet freeze.

However, the Netherlands has a long history of neutralism and a strong pacifist movement which is highly suspicious of all questions nuclear. Moreover, recent polls suggest that more than 55 per cent of the population oppose deployment.

The KKN's "Volkskeuring" (people's petition) is the latest popular endeavour to persuade the government to resist pressure from

NATO partners and hold out against the siting of the missiles.

Last year more than 20,000 citizens joined up to bring a legal case against the government in an unsuccessful attempt to have the Cruise deployment declared illegal.

The petition was launched at a rally in Woensdrecht, the small town near the Belgian border where the missiles will be sited if deployment is approved. The first 1,000 signatures came from notables including the Bishop of Breda and Nobel economics prize winner Jan Tinbergen.

More than five million petition cards are being delivered to every household in the country.

Addressed to all members of the Dutch parliament, the cards read: "I am against nuclear weapons. You must make a decision over deployment of Cruise missiles on Dutch soil on November 1 and I ask you then to oppose deployment."

The KKN has been planning the petition for two years and has 80,000 volunteers ready to collect and count signatures. It will also stage a "week for peace" around the country to promote the campaign and encourage people to send in their signature cards.

KKN secretary Mient Jan Faber is confident of success. "There will be no Cruise missiles deployed here, of that I am sure," he told newsmen last week.

The idea was first mooted in 1983 as the Netherlands, the last of the NATO countries earmarked for missiles, agonised over whether or not to deploy them.

Vociferous opposition to the missiles came from both the anti-nuclear movement and the

centre-right Christian Democrat Party of Lubbers, senior partner in the ruling coalition.

The issue threatened to bring down the government but the postponement of a final decision until November, compromise put forward by Lubbers himself, averted a crisis.

Since then the Netherlands has been the target of concerted pressure from the U.S. and allies in Europe who maintain that the standing of the Netherlands in NATO depends on deployment.

The petition has its opponents at home, led by the Committee for

Multilateral Disarmament (ICTO) which pins its hopes on a handful of polls suggesting Dutch interest in the arms race is on the wane.

"Dutch deployment of Cruise depends on the Soviets — so the people's petition is going to the wrong address. Don't sign it. Rip up your card," read ICTO leaflets now landing on doorsteps.

As the deadline for the parliamentary decision draws nearer, the battle for signatures both for and against the missiles becomes daily fiercer in the media and on the streets.



The Dutch peace movement staged a massive anti-nuclear march attended by some 400,000 people in Amsterdam in 1981. Picture shows workers of the peace movement putting signs reading "nuclear-free community" at some of the city's limits as a memorial to the '81 march.

Palme's pragmatism wins him elections

STOCKHOLM (R) — Olof Palme, who retained power as Sweden's prime minister in general elections Sunday, beat off a strong opposition challenge by altering the style of his Social Democrats in response to a rightward shift in the public mood.

Best known abroad for building up Sweden as a model welfare state and championing small nations which he considered bullied by great powers, Mr. Palme, 58, focused more on pragmatic than ideological issues as the country's economic problems took centre stage as an election issue.

Mr. Palme, who first served as prime minister in 1969, has already held the office for 10 years. His party's election campaign appealed to the most cautious instincts of the electorate, a contrast to the pugnacious brand of politics and love of confrontation that has marked most of his career.

Born into a prosperous Stockholm family, Mr. Palme started his working life as a journalist, and in his early days became the main advocate of class struggle in Sweden.

Mr. Palme cut his political teeth

as personal secretary for 10 years to Sweden's Social Democrat postwar premier, the late Tage Erlander, until he was made minister without portfolio in 1963.

He helped to engineer an exodus from the countryside to help turn Sweden into a modern industrial state.

Later as prime minister, he sponsored major tax reforms that pushed married women onto the labour market and initiated a huge plan to expand day care facilities and increase job security.

But critics have hit at the creation of a system that has made ordinary Swedes highly dependent on the state.

Mr. Palme first hit world headlines in 1968, when as education minister, he took part in a Stockholm protest against the U.S. role in the Vietnam war alongside Hanoi's ambassador to Moscow.

He took over the government in 1969 after being elected chairman of the ruling Social Democrats with the backing of the party's left wing.

Sweden soon became an asylum for U.S. draft-dodgers, and Mr. Palme continued to castigate

Washington on Vietnam, provoking its fury in December 1972 by comparing the resumption of bombings over north Vietnam to Nazi atrocities in World War II. The U.S. froze diplomatic relations with Sweden for over a year.

Mr. Palme proved himself a brilliant tactician at home, maintaining his party's fragile unity on such issues as the European Community and nuclear power.

But in the 1976 general election, he paid the price of world recession as his unpopular defence of nuclear power drove the Social Democrats out of office for the first time since 1932.

Disunity within the centre-liberal coalition brought the Social Democrats back to power in 1982 and Mr. Palme acted swiftly in an effort to remedy Sweden's economic ills.

However, in 1983 his commitment to union-controlled investment funds sparked off the biggest demonstrations in modern Swedish history as the right accused him of trying to nationalise industry by proxy.

He weathered the storm, ac-



Olof Palme

using Sweden's business leaders of opposing "economic democracy," but his personal judgement was increasingly called into question. Critics accused him of choosing "yes-men" as ministers, and even friends spoke critically of a flaring temper and obsession with winning every argument that sometimes pushed him into extreme positions.

Islamic dress made fashionable in Egypt

By Gerald F. Selb

CAIRO — Like a lot of dress-makers, Karam Helal is about to go to Rome and Paris to pick up the latest designs.

But after she has made her purchases in the land of Yves Saint Laurent, Mrs. Helal will return to her little factory here in Cairo to make a few alterations, suggested by Islamic tradition.

First, Mrs. Helal will add long sleeves. Then she will drop the neckline to the floor. Finally, she will create a matching *hijab*, a scarf covering the head and neck, perhaps one studded with gold beads or held in place with a powder-blue pillbox hat decorated with pearls.

End result: a chic Islamic fashion.

This is the hottest thing going in Egyptian couture. Islamic fundamentalism is on the rise here, and more and more Muslim women are deciding they should wear clothes that cover everything but the hands and face. They aren't driving in the manner of Iran, however, where the Ayatollah Khomeini has made black veils *de rigueur* Islamic attire. Egyptian women are deciding they don't have to be frumpy just because they are becoming more modest and religious.

Purples and polka dots

No fundamentalist fashion boom is on. Mrs. Helal, who, having undergone a religious awakening, has started wearing Islamic dress herself, predicts that 95 per cent of her factory's production this year will be Islamic attire. Other factories are increasing their output of long-sleeved, floor-length dresses in bright pinks, purples and polka dots. Boutiques specialising in chic Islamic fashions are springing up. An Islamic fashion show at one of Cairo's best hotels recently attracted 300 guests.

One store in the heart of downtown Cairo sells nothing but colourful *hijabs*. And another entrepreneur has opened a store offering fashionable Islamic gowns in large sizes.

"Islam didn't say women can't be beautiful," explains Habib Sahyoun, who runs a clothing company called Miss Beauty that now devotes about 40 per cent of its production to Islamic fashions. Islam surely never envisioned that so many capitalists would be cashing in this way on an Islamic revival.

Many Egyptian women who turn to Islamic garb insist they do so for purely personal religious reasons, although a few make the change because Islamic dress has come to be considered the sign of a respectable woman. In any case, some of the most successful of the entrepreneurs who have geared up to meet the new demand are women who have converted to Islamic garb themselves and are proselytizing the trend.

Bahia Thabet, for example, began wearing Islamic clothing several years ago but was disgusted with the low quality of what was on the market. "I was ashamed of my clothes," she says. So she and her husband last December opened El Ridaa, a boutique in suburban Cairo that specialises in Islamic fashions.

Now, veiled young clerks glide from customer to customer in the carpeted store as a tape of Islamic chants plays softly in the background. Mrs. Thabet, looking snappy in a black-and-white striped dress and a bright red *hijab*, says she hopes more women will adopt Islamic dress because they see in her store that it can be elegant. But she insists she won't try to force the style on anybody — not even on her own nine-year-old daughter, who sometimes wears a bikini. "It has to be a personal choice," she says.

Similarly, Tahani Abdul-Hamid is a mother of four who adopted Islamic dress and then opened a store in Cairo's affluent Zamalek neighbourhood last year. The store doesn't have a religious air about it; it is called Fantastic and Mrs. Abdul-Hamid is known to customers by the un-Islamic nickname of Madame Tutu.

But the Islamic fashions which make up three-quarters of her stock are a smash. Mrs. Abdul-Hamid this year opened a second Fantastic store a few blocks away specialising in large sizes, and she is contemplating a third location. She boasts that she has Islamic clothes for home, office or dinner wear. Prices range from \$50 for simple, cream-coloured dress to \$200 for a black silk evening dress with gentle pleats and embroidered flowers on the shoulders.

"It's made in Egypt," Mrs. Abdul-Hamid says, "but the design and the material are from Paris."

For a Westerner, the greatest mystery about all this is how such high style can be acceptable to devout Muslims in Egypt when it would be considered sinfully ostentatious in a place like Iran.

Vague direction

The answer is that Muslim traditionalists are a little vague on just what women are supposed to wear. Because there aren't any precise rules about how to dress, there is a great debate in the Islamic world about just what is required. Many in Egypt say that covering the head isn't necessary, for instance. In some Gulf states, by contrast, Muslims conclude that women should be covered head to foot in black and that they should even wear gloves and masks.

Most devout Egyptian women have concluded that Islam requires no more than that they keep everything covered but the face and the hands. "I don't wear black because it isn't practical, and there aren't any religious reasons for it," says Randa Sami Ahmed, a 22-year-old university graduate who adopted Islamic garb three months ago. She is wearing a bright yellow and blue patterned blouse, a light-blue skirt and a flowing, beige *hijab*.

Room for elegance

So there is room for elegance in Egyptian Islamic fashion — enough elegance, in fact, that a few Western women are starting to buy, too. "I have friends in Montreal who, when they came here, bought this to go to the theatre," says May Khouri as she unfurls a burgundy-coloured *hijab* and matching pillbox hat in her store in downtown Cairo. "Very, very nice," she says in French-accented English. "Very elegant."

And competition is growing among those hoping to fill Islamic fashion needs. Mrs. Khouri says she creates her own designs for *hijabs* and hires women to make them so that she won't have the same mass-produced designs she says her competitors are carrying.

Salam Shopping Centre, a two-year-old Islamic fashion store that probably is the biggest in Cairo, runs colourful television commercials and regularly advertises in Egyptian newspapers. Ibrahim Muhammad, the store's owner, hopes all the new Islamic clothing will help resist decadence. "Our civilisation is going down," he fiers. "The youth all the time they are thinking about sex."

But there remains some resistance to the Islamic fashion trend. Cairo's big government-owned stores have little Islamic garb on display, reflecting perhaps unwillingness by the government of



President Hosni Mubarak toward Muslim fundamentalists, who are clamouring for strict new Islamic laws. Such demands are unsettling in a country with a 10 per cent Christian minority. The government has jailed some fundamentalists on charges of fomenting subversion.

Fathy Al Shindy, an official at the government's big Salon du Vert department-store chain, says he just doesn't think Islamic fashions are all that popular. He says that just 5 per cent of his store's fashions are Islamic, but he acknowledges that as sales continue to pick up, he is likely to carry more of the stuff. "It may be 10 per cent after two or three years," he says — Wall Street Journal.

Lebanese take time off for cultural festival

By Diana Abdallah
Reuters

BEITEDDINE, Lebanon — High in the Druze-held Shouf mountains, Lebanon's first cultural festival in 10 years of civil war is under way — but amid the festivities the conflict never seems far away.

Red flags and political slogans, tanks and armed militiamen greet visitors to Beiteddine's historic palace, now a museum and centerpiece of the festival organised by Druze leader Walid Jumblatt to give his people a break from the war.

Inside, the prize exhibit is a collection of icons seized by Druze fighters from a monastery near the southern city of Sidon when they overran a Christian-held region last April.

Jumblatt admits that the former presidential summer palace is state property. He has made it a symbol of his challenge to the administration of Christian President Amin Gemayel.

Jumblatt has controlled Beiteddine since the Druze cleared their Christian neighbours from the Shouf in a bloody war in 1983 and set up their own administration.

Five Soviet-made T-54 tanks stand guard outside the vast courtyard where princely rulers of the Shouf once strolled. Inside, the walls are draped with political

flags and banners bearing slogans by Jumblatt and his assassinated father, Kamal.

"Oh God, may Arab Lebanon's progressive, socialist, secular liberation revolution one day become the revolution of all the Arabs," says a statement by Kamal Jumblatt.

As Walid opened the festival last week with Soviet Ambassador Alexander Soldatov, shouts of "God protect you, president" echoed among thousands of visitors. Jumblatt is president of the Druze-led Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

Women ululated as the tall young Druze leader strode by in his customary jeans and black leather jacket. Young men danced a traditional welcome, watched by fatigue-clad PSP militia guards with Soviet-designed Kalashnikov rifles.

Crowds enthusiastically applauded a new anthem intended to replace Lebanon's national anthem, which Jumblatt banned in the Shouf last month as a symbol of the Christian-dominated state structure he is trying to overthrow.

"The national anthem and the flag are manifestations of the Lebanese sectarian formula which we reject, so we will stand to a new anthem at all occasions," Anwar Fatayri, an aide to Jumblatt and a member of the festival committee, told Reuters.

The new anthem by Kahlil Hawi, a poet who killed himself during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, tells of Lebanese struggle and of the country's Arab nature.

The museum will be a permanent feature and the organisers hope there will be more festivals. This year's festival includes a Soviet dance troupe.

Jumblatt refused to be photographed beside the 106 icons and paintings taken from Deir Mkhales monastery in the Iqlim Al Kharrub region south of Beirut.

Asked if he planned to return the icons, he said the Pope could come and collect them when he wished.

Fatayri, however, said: "The icons will be kept at the museum and will be for the public to enjoy, instead of being kept away or sold to buy weapons like the priests did."

The words "gift to Deir Mkhales monastery" were visible on several icons. The museum also displays antique robes, furniture, modern art, revolutionary posters, craftwork and socialist literature. "Druze fighters did not steal the icons, they brought them here to protect them against theft," said a Druze visitor.

George Zeini, a Christian who organised the museum and festival said, "People in Lebanon have the right to be happy and see the bright side of their country."

The Shouf, invaded by the Israelis in 1982, ravaged by Druze-Christian fighting in 1983 and semi-depopulated since the flight of Christian inhabitants, is still the scene of artillery exchanges.

Some villages display one-tonne fragments of shells hurled by the U.S. battleship New Jersey in 1983 and early 1984, when Washington-backed Gemayel again the Druze and their Muslim allies.

"We wanted to give the Lebanese people hope and at the same time change the usual daily political cycle of death," said Jumblatt, explaining the reason for the festival.

The first performance in a palace courtyard was, symbolically, by leaving Christian folk singer Marcel Khalife, one of Lebanon's most popular performers.

Soviet, Greek, Syrian and Lebanese groups will also dance and poets and fashion designers will have their day.

"Our people live with death and violence and they have forgotten the meaning of culture and creation," Zeini said. "This festival is just a step forward."

Even so, the war prevented some from fully enjoying the event. "We had a good time watching the Russian dance group," said a young woman. "But all was forgotten once we stepped into the entrance of the palace and saw the tanks."

Author of Little Mermaid loved own photos

By Michael Duggan
Reuters

COPENHAGEN — Hans Christian Andersen, 19th-century Danish author of fairy tales such as "The Ugly Duckling" and "The Little Mermaid", had a passion for gazing at photographs of himself.

Biographers interpreted this vanity as an expression of his need for appreciation and friendship after his struggle to gain entry into literary society from proletarian origins.

Now, the public can search for fresh insights into the complex personality of the master storyteller at an exhibition in the Danish Photographic Museum in Helsingør, Jutland.

Andersen, born in 1805, was intrigued by the new art of photography, developed in 1838 by Louis Daguerre of France. He posed before the camera about 160 times and 60 portraits have

just gone on show at the museum. Most show his angular face from the right, which he felt was his best profile. He liked his hair to be shown curled by his Copenhagen hairdresser and not smooth as it tended to become on his frequent journeys, biographers say.

Andersen was often pictured in top hat and overcoat, with lapels turned back to reveal decorations bestowed on him.

He never forgot his origins, describing himself once as a "swamp plant from the depths."

Born at Odense on the central Danish island of Funen, to parents who married two months before his birth, Andersen told his mother: "I mean to be famous."

He left for Copenhagen at the age of 14 with a few coins in his pocket and the idea of becoming an actor. "It was a quite inexplicable urge that drove me," he wrote later.

An actor who gave Andersen

lessons told him he had feeling, but no future on the stage. He tried writing drama, but it was only after he was sent by a benefactor to study at a grammar school that his writing began to make its mark.

He wrote successful novels and plays but said his fairy stories were "mere trifles" and protested when his scientist friend Hans Oersted, who discovered electromagnetism, told him it was these very tales which would make him immortal.

The fairy tale was enormously popular in Germany and the Scandinavian countries as a literary counterpart to folk tales collected by, for example, the German Grimm brothers.

Literary critics point out that Andersen's tales, full of gentle irony and childlike naivety, are written on two levels of understanding to suit children and adults.

Andersen disliked being regarded purely as a children's writer and in later years objected successfully to plans for a statue showing him surrounded by children.

Apart from vanity, he also showed mild neurosis. The Andersen museum in Odense has a length of rope which he carried on travels so he could escape from hotels if they caught fire.

He was apparently terrified of being buried alive and once left a notice on his bed saying: "I only appear dead." He was frightened of dogs, spent hours at railway stations to avoid missing trains and never ate ham in case of infection.

In other ways he was brave and physically tough, undertaking 29 foreign journeys and climbing the Vesuvius volcano in Italy.

In 1867, eight years before his death, Odense made him an honorary citizen and lit up the town, just as a fortune teller had predicted when he was a child.

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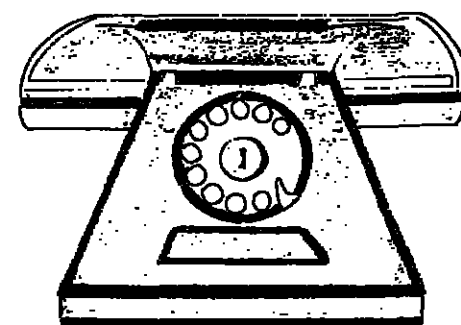
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Smith signed as coach of Egypt's national team

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Football Federation, whose national side was trounced twice by Norway in friendly matches this month, has signed former Wales manager Michael Smith to build a new squad, officials said Monday.

Federation Director Khalil Al-Deeb told Reuters Smith signed a contract last week with Federation Chairman Hassan Abdoun following negotiations in London.

He replaces Abdou Saleh Al-Wahsh, who was sacked last month because of Egypt's recent poor performances.

Deeb declined to give details of the contract. He said the choice of Smith, who enjoyed considerable success with Wales from 1974, was based on the advice of British football expert Allan Wade who was recently given training lectures here to Egyptian coaches.

Smith, who never played professional football but became England Schools Coach while a teacher, is due to arrive here on Sept. 25, three days before Egypt's premier 1985/86 league competition kicks off.

After his spell with Wales, Smith took over Hull City in December 1979 but was dismissed in 1982 by an official receiver called in to sort out the club's financial crisis.

Federation sources said Smith's first task would be to put together a new national squad for the finals next March of the African Nations' Cup, a trophy Egypt last won 26 years ago.

His first test will come on Oct. 20 when Egypt clash with Mexico in the first of 10 friendly matches in preparation for the African Cup finals.

Impact of U.S.-Soviet accord uncertain

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An agreement to promote sports exchanges between the Soviet Union and the United States might not prevent boycotts of future Olympic Games, representatives of both sides said.

"The agreement is a great step forward," said Robert Helmick, President of the U.S. Olympic Committee, after the agreement's signing Sunday. "For the first time we have on paper a statement that we will do whatever is within the realm of our abilities to support the Olympic movement."

But Marat Gramov, President of the Soviet National Olympic Committee, avoided making a pledge that the Soviet Union would send its athletes to Seoul, Korea, for the 1988 Games.

Gramov, speaking through an interpreter at a news conference Sunday, said there were "some problems concerning this question. This (agreement) concerns the whole Olympic movement."

Our decision (whether to attend the games in South Korea) will be made prior to eight months before the Olympics."

In 1980, the United States led a 62-nation boycott of the Moscow Olympics to protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. In 1984, the Soviets led an Eastern Bloc boycott of the Los Angeles Games.

Gramov said the agreement was "not linked with the Olympic Games of 1988, 1992, 1996. It expresses a general desire to participate in the whole world sports movement."

"I have not commented on any political relationships," said Robert Helmick, President of the U.S. Olympic Committee. "I have not discussed this accord with any member of the government."

"As for any one Olympics, it's not time to enter that (question) yet."

Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, said, however, the agreement "will be a great help for the next Olympic Games in 1988. We hope that this will create an atmosphere that will bring all the countries together again."

Major points provide that both nations will:

- Encourage member organizations to establish and expand sport exchanges, including dual and multinational competitions and joint training camps and exchanges of coaches and officials for seminars and clinics.
- Exchange information related to the respective sports organizations, construction of sports facilities and sports equipment, sports medicine and science, drug control and research and coaching and training techniques.
- Exchange technical and administrative observers to national sports festivals in the United States and the Soviet Union.



Hamoud Sultan, Bahrain's goalkeeper, flies to catch the ball before it reaches Yousef Amoury, striker of Jordan's joint team of Al Faisali and Al Wehdah (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Vital'o upsets Zamalek

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi's Vital'o beat reigning champions Zamalek of Egypt 1-0 Sunday in a major upset in the quarter finals of the African Champions Cup.

The only goal of the first leg match came from a penalty in the 43rd minute after Zamalek defender Hamada Abdelaziz handled to prevent a certain goal. Malik slammed the ball home from the spot, leaving Zamalek keeper El Mendouh stranded.

Fans had travelled from neighbouring Zaïre, Rwanda and Tanzania to see the clash which

turned out to be a cautious affair with both sides putting the emphasis on defence.

The Egyptians used long high balls into the centre to take advantage of their much taller forwards but the Burundians were clearly prepared for this and snuffed out every attack.

Vital'o dominated for most of the match with Zamalek forcing the pace only in the last quarter of an hour.

The Burundians are now confident they can hang onto their lead in the second leg in Cairo.

Algeria takes first Palestine Cup game

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria beat Mauritania 2-1 (half-time 1-1) in Sunday night's opening game of the Palestine Cup, an under-19 soccer tournament in which 12 Arab teams are taking part.

Bouzeouata (6th minute) and Allem (47th) scored for Algeria and Malik (4th) for Mauritania.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat attended the opening ceremony. The PLO has a team in the tournament, intended as a demonstration of solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

The teams were drawn in four qualifying groups playing in Alg-

iers, Tiemcen, Batna and Sidi Bel Abbes.

Fifteen national teams were originally due to take part but Libya, Jordan and North Yemen withdrew.

Group One, playing in Algiers, bring together Algeria, Mauritania and the United Arab Emirates.

In Tiemcen, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon are in Group Two. Group Three, in Sidi Bel Abbes, comprises Saudi Arabia, South Yemen and Tunisia, and Group Four, in Batna, is made up of Morocco, Iraq and Qatar.

Jordan plans match to benefit Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Faisali and Al Wehdah, Jordan's top two soccer teams, will play a benefit match to aid the famine stricken people of Sudan, according to the Arabic daily Al Ra'i.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is sponsoring the event to emphasise the brotherhood and mutual benevolence linking the peoples of Jordan and Sudan. The

date of the match will be announced at a later time.

Al Faisali is a 17-time winner of Jordan's First Division, and the young club Al Wehdah has risen quickly to the top of the list. The high level of competition should ensure a large turnout and a correspondingly large charitable donation to Sudan.

Outsider wins Prix Vermeille

PARIS (R) — Rank Outsider dominated top French events this year. He said after the victory of Walensee, who paid 22 francs on the pari mutuel for a one franc stake: "I have prepared her specially for this race and she has terrific stamina. But she will not run in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and is not in the same class as Sagace."

Lester Piggott was two lengths away in third place on Galla Placidia in front of Prix de Diane (French Oaks) winner Lypharita and Irish filly Alydar's best.

Walensee and Eric Legrix, third into the straight, took up the advantage 1½ furlongs from the finish and held off a late challenge from Fitnah by three quarters of a length.

Sagace, last year's arc winner, who is also trained by Biamcone, is favourite to win the race again on October 6.

Benfica slips to bottom half

LISBON (R) — Former Portuguese and European soccer champions Benfica suffered a second successive humiliation when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Setubal Sunday.

As Sporting Lisbon str-

engthened their grip on the top of the Portuguese First Division with a 2-0 win at Braga, Benfica slipped into the bottom half of the table with only three points from four matches.

Good news to Jordanian ladies

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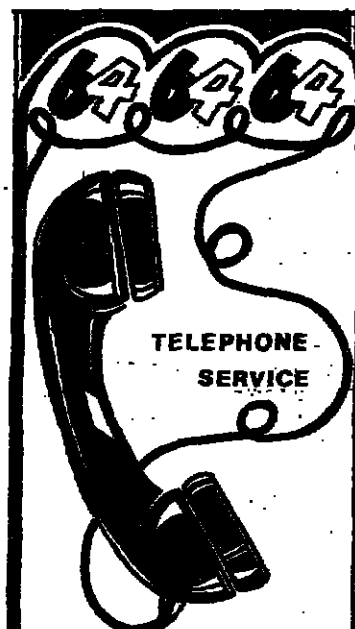
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(Colour)
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Cinema RAGHADAN

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(Colour)
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for the pound sterling and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.		
One sterling	1.3290/300	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3740/43	Canadian dollars
	2.9150/63	West German marks
	3.2730/45	Dutch guilders
	2.4020/35	Swiss francs
	58.75/80	Belgian francs
	8.8800/900	French francs
	1950/1951	Italian lire
	241.80/90	Japanese yen
	8.5375/475	Swedish crowns
	8.4975/5075	Norwegian crowns
	10.5500/600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	318.50/319.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed easier but selected prices moved off the early lows of cheap buying. Dealers said trading had been quiet throughout the session with attention centred around special situations and companies reporting results. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 9.5 at 1,299.3.

Timing ended 2p lower on balance at 340 after interim figures in line with expectations while Dalgety added 5p to 438 after its annual results and a one for one capitalisation issue.

Government bonds closed around 3/16 point higher at the longer end despite the weakness of sterling. Golds were narrowly mixed but North Americans were quietly easier.

Government bonds were helped initially by news the United Kingdom is issuing a \$2 billion floating rate note, later increased to \$2.5 billion on strong demand, but dealers now felt that this issue is separate and will have no effect on funding in the government bond market.

British Aerospace ended 13p higher at 393 in ex-dividend form on reports that Britain had reached agreement in principle to sell military aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

Oil eased on worries over the future trend of crude oil prices and ahead of the OPEC meeting in early October. Having opened 6p down at 177, Enterprise moved to 179 after interims.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPT. 17, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day finds you with a considerable amount of ingenuity and resourcefulness in being able to handle whatever specific courses of action come to your attention.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Think about how you can gain greater benefits from your work in the morning. Be sure to get bills paid and improve credit.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) After you avoid a run-in with an important person, you can make fine arrangements for recreation with close ties.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you are most efficient at your work in the morning, you can gain greater benefits. Take no chances in your work.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Talk over with the person you want to partake of in the days ahead. Make arrangements for them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get financial affairs handled in your usual careful way in the morning and make any needed adjustments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are dynamic and energetic and are able to accomplish a good deal today, but tonight do not risk in any way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Set up a course whereby you can gain your private goals easily during the daytime. Relax at home tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A generous friend could be of great help to you today in whatever confuses you, but tonight forget money matters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Some public work in the morning can bring you advancement quickly, but don't be too dynamic later.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have fine ideas that could bring you greater success, so put them in operation quickly. Be kind with mate in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be able to carry through with any project meticulously and will not brook any interference from others who try to spoil things. An early start in business is wise since your progeny will be ahead of others.

THE Daily Crossword by N.E. Campbell

1 Short-tailed bird	14 Across
2 Arts, Indians	15 Down
3 Shellfish	16 Across
4 Flaming wings	17 Down
5 Free	18 Across
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86 Flamingo	99 Down
87 Flamingo	100 Across

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across	5 Puts in regard	ATLAS	POW	ASPI
3 Clipped Lamb	8 Served storm	ROBBIE	OPAF	AL
4 Knight or	9 Seize a ship	ROBBIE	OPAF	AL
5 Lame	7 Factice	ROBBIE	OPAF	AL
6 Chain grapes	10 Overcast	ROBBIE	OPAF	AL
10 Bardet	11 Where boards	ROBBIE	OPAF	AL
11 Make a sound	12 Spread covering	ROBBIE	OPAF	AL
12 Overcast	13 Distribute	ROBBIE	OPAF	AL
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18 Sculler	19 Speechless	ROBBIE	OPAF	AL
19 Speechless	20 Ancient Gr.	ROBBIE	OPAF	AL
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21 Nautilus word	22 Nautilus	ROBBIE	OPAF	AL
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African states urge more pressure on S. Africa

MAPUTO (R) — Leaders of six black-ruled southern African states have welcomed growing international condemnation of apartheid in South Africa and called on the West to step up pressure on Pretoria to dismantle the system.

Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe had met to consider regional problems including apartheid. Pretoria's policy of racial segregation.

In a communique issued Sunday, the six urged South Africa to immediately lift its ban on the black opposition African National Congress (ANC), and to release Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

On the question of independence for Namibia (South West Africa), ruled by South Africa in defiance of the United Nations, they rejected and condemned the government installed in Windhoek by Pretoria.

The communique appealed to the international community not to recognise the government, reaffirming U.N. Resolution 435 as the only basis for a negotiated settlement in Namibia.

The resolution calls for holding U.N.-supervised elections followed by independence.

Military cooperation between Mozambique and Zimbabwe against the anti-government Mozambique National Resistance re-

bia and Zimbabwe are heavily dependent on Pretoria's transport and trade routes.

Mr. Kaunda added: "We also discussed the struggle for the liberation of Namibia and the destruction of the abominable system of (South African) apartheid."

Meanwhile, two more black South Africans were killed in renewed protests across the country overnight, police said Monday.

Worst hit by violence was Tembisa black township north east of Johannesburg. An ambulance passenger sitting next to the driver killed two men when he fired on a crowd allegedly trying to attack and rob the vehicle.

"In the same area, a mob poured petrol over an unknown black male with the intent of setting him alight. He however managed to escape from his assailants unscathed," said a police statement. Several blacks have recently been burnt alive by crowds accusing them of collaborating with the government.

Police reported arson, petrol-bombing and stone throwing in other areas.

Riots had subsided earlier in the weekend following a flurry of political activity in which the government signalled reforms to apartheid and top white businessmen held a meeting with black guerrilla leaders in Zambia.



CHINESE PARTY MEMBERS VOTE: Members of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee raise their hands in a vote during the plenary session at the Great Hall of the People in Peking Monday in a major shake up (See story below) (AP wirephoto)

Tamils demand new truce agreement

NEW DELHI (R) — Sri Lanka said Monday it was extending a three-month old ceasefire with separatist rebels but major Tamil guerrilla groups said they opposed the truce was monitored by the International Red Cross and backed by India.

The government in Colombo said it was unilaterally extending the ceasefire, due to end on Wednesday, but would take "appropriate measures" against guerrillas violating the truce.

A spokesman for the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), umbrella for four main guerrilla groups, told reporters in Madras the ceasefire existed only on paper.

He said the separatist guerrillas wanted a new ceasefire but only if

it was backed by India and monitored by the International Red Cross to safeguard against violations by Sri Lankan troops.

He said 11 guerrilla leaders were leaving for New Delhi this evening to hold talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The spokesman said the current ceasefire was pointless because a large number of Tamil civilians had been killed since it went into effect on June 18.

He said the Colombo government was bent on a military solution to the island's ethnic crisis and had launched a massive arms build-up since the ceasefire was announced.

The ENLF delegation will be headed by Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the island's largest guer-

rilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The spokesman said the ENLF team would also urge Mr. Gandhi to revoke the deportations from India last month of two exiled Tamil leaders, Anton Balasingham and N. Sanyendra.

He said the talks will take place at Mr. Gandhi's convenience because of the Indian leader's poll campaign in Punjab and a visit to New Delhi on Wednesday by Nepal's King Birendra.

The spokesman said the guerrilla leaders will also discuss with Mr. Gandhi a draft plan prepared by Indian and Sri Lankan officials two weeks ago.

The ENLF has neither rejected nor accepted the (draft) in its entirety," he said.

Honduran president rejects talks with Ortega

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — President Roberto Suazo Cordova has rejected Nicaragua's call for an emergency meeting of president of the two Central American nations to avoid further border clashes, a presidential spokesman said Sunday.

Despite the armed forces' state of alert that remained in effect following Friday's fighting, Hondurans put the incident aside for a parade Sunday and other independence day festivities marking the 164th anniversary of liberation from Spain.

Monday was an official holiday. A Honduran military spokesman and sources in northern Nicaragua in the area where the clashes occurred reported quiet Sunday.

The Honduran spokesman, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, said in the past 48 hours "there has been a climate of tranquility on the border... and we hope the situation will continue like that."

Honduras said its warplanes shot down a Nicaraguan helicopter and strafed mortar batteries after Sandinista forces fired into Honduras, killing one Honduran soldier and wounding eight others.

The attack occurred near the small mountain village of Española, 2.5 kilometres from the border and 65 kilometres south east of Tegucigalpa.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said the Sandinista forces were responding to an attempted invasion by 800 Nicaraguan rebels based in Honduras.

About 2,000 reinforcements sent to the area on Friday remained along a 145 kilometre stretch of the border, Honduran military officials said Sunday.

Nicaraguan troops were not on a state of alert, Capt. Rosa Pasos, a Nicaraguan Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Suazo Cordova rejected Mr. Ortega's call for the meeting because he feels the Contadora Group is the best channel to resolve the differences that exist between Nicaragua and Honduras, the presidential spokesman, who spoke on condition he not be identified, told the Associated Press.

Mr. Ortega urged in a speech in Managua on Saturday that the two presidents meet immediately.

Rebels claim holding Duarte's daughter

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Left-wing guerrillas have contacted the Salvadoran government and said they were holding President Jose Napoleon Duarte's kidnapped daughter, sources close to the government has said.

The sources, who spoke on condition that they not be identified, said Sunday night a "violent" rebel military group belonging to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) had taken credit for last week's abduction of Ines Guadalupe Duarte Duran.

They did not specify which of the five groups forming the FMLN which has been fighting a six-year guerrilla war against El Salvador's U.S.-backed government had taken responsibility or what their demands were for her release.

Mrs. Duarte Duran, 35, the oldest of the president's six children, was abducted by gunmen along with a classmate in front of a San Salvador University last Tuesday.

Government officials earlier had said the abduction led them to believe that the FMLN was behind the action but rebel radio stations which normally take credit for such acts have remained silent.

Diplomats said the guerrillas were probably very surprised by the extent of international outrage provoked by the abduction and had decided not to announce publicly their responsibility.

One Duarte aide recently told Reuters the government was hoping the kidnappers would not make any public statement but instead seek private contacts to

work out an agreement.

A high ranking military source close to the investigation told Reuters that the first contact between the kidnappers and government officials was made on Friday but said the communication was cut short when a helicopter was heard flying in the background.

Another source said the contact was made through the army's communications system with a stolen military radio.

The sources said government leaders were satisfied the contact was legitimate and that the president's daughter was safe for the time being.

There have been reports in government circles that the kidnappers have demanded the release of top guerrilla leaders now being held by the government in exchange for Duarte Duran.

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10 Chinese leaders retire, Hua Guofeng retains post

PEKING (R) — China said Monday that nearly half of its ruling Communist Party politburo is to retire, including veteran leaders regarded as opponents of Deng Xiaoping's reformist policies.

The official New China News Agency said the party's Central Committee held a plenary session Monday which accepted resignation letters from 10 politburo members, and about 18 percent of the 210-member Central Committee.

The list of those who asked to be allowed to resign was headed by Marshal Ye Jianying, 88, who is often seen as a rallying point for opponents of Mr. Deng's innovative economic policies.

Others included Madame Deng Yingchao, 81, widow of the late Premier Chou Enlai, former Defence Minister Marshal Xu Xiangnian, 83, and two military men often seen as being opponents of

Mr. Deng — Li Desheng and Wei Guoqing.

Monday's plenum decided to hold a party conference on Wednesday to approve these and other leadership changes. The conference will also approve an outline of the seventh five-year plan which will guide China's economic development between 1986 and 1990.

The 64 members or alternate members of the party Central Committee who requested retirement said in a joint letter that they wished to make way for younger people who could speed up the task of modernising China's economy.

"The colossal task of Socialist modernisation urgently requires the ranks of cadres... to become, in the interests of revolutionisation, younger, better educated and professionally more competent, it

said.

They said they hoped their resignations would also help to end "de facto life-long tenure in leading posts."

The special conference will approve a list of replacements for those leaders who are retiring.

Those tipped to join the Central Committee are almost all in their forties or fifties, well-educated and with none of the experience of civil war and revolution which dominated the lives of their predecessors.

Among the Deng proteges expected to enter the politburo are Hu Jili, 56, seen as a likely candidate to become head of the Communist Party at the party's next full congress in 1987, and Li Peng, also 56, who is tipped to take over as premier.

Diplomats said they understood the conference was expected to end with another Central Com-

mittee plenary session on Sept. 25.

Hua Guofeng, successor to Chairman Mao and Chinese leader until 1981, has retained a seat on the ruling Communist Party Central Committee despite the removal of many of his comrades.

The 64 Central Committee members who retired Monday include a number of people closely identified with him. But Hua, 64, has managed to stay on in leadership increasingly dominated by his old foe, Deng Xiaoping, 81.

In 1976, after the death of Mao Tse-tung, Hua rose to supreme power in China on the strength of a supposed quote from Mao: "With you in charge, I am at ease."

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Dead seal poisoned by 256 coins

HIRTSHALS, Denmark (R) — A vet who examined a dead seal at an aquarium here found 256 coins thrown by visitors in its stomach, an aquarium official said Monday.

The seal's death was due to poisoning from the coins and aquarium managers are now watching to see if their remaining five seals are similarly affected.

Despite the armed forces' state of alert that remained in effect following Friday's fighting, Hondurans put the incident aside for a parade Sunday and other independence day festivities marking the 164th anniversary of liberation from Spain.

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35 die in Filipino grenade attack

PAGADIAN, Philippines (R) — Many children were crushed to death in a wild stampede after suspected rebels lobbed three grenades into a packed cinema in the southern Philippines, police said Monday.

They said initial reports indicated that at least 35 people were killed and 100 injured in Sunday's attack. Hospital officials expected many of the injured to die.

Police blamed the attack on rebels but could not immediately say if they were Muslims of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) or Communist guerrillas. Both groups are active in the area around Maranding in Lanao Del

Norte province on the southern island of Mindanao.

"As the grenades exploded there was screaming and shouting. Walls were splattered with blood. I saw many people who had lost their limbs," said Rico Maquipton, 21, a labourer admitted to hospital in Ozamis City.

"Many of those who died in the hospital were children," he told Reuters. "There was a lot of blood everywhere and the explosion made a big hole in the ground."

Police said about 25 people died on the spot and the others in hospital.

Other survivors said the cinema had only one exit and that many

children were crushed to death in a stampede to escape.

The wounded were rushed to four hospitals in nearby towns where doctors reported shortage of blood although prisoners in a local jail offered donations.

Ruben Carpio, 25, a farmer, said he heard people screaming and wailing as pandemonium broke out.

"The wounded were crying for help. Parents were screaming for their children. But nobody helped. Everybody thought there would be more explosions and people were rushing towards the exit," he added.

Thailand ends state of emergency

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand Monday announced the end of a state of emergency imposed after a coup attempt failed a week ago.

The announcement read over Radio Thailand said the emergency decree was being rescinded at 6 p.m. (1100 GMT) because the situation in the country was back to normal.

Five people, including two foreign journalists, were killed and 59 wounded in the Sept. 9 coup attempt.

Investigations to identify leaders of the uprising continued Monday.

Police escorted two senators, both former labour leaders, from parliament for questioning on labour participation in the coup, which loyalist forces crushed after 10 hours.

Thai officials said they did not know the whereabouts of Manoon Roopkachorn, an alleged coup leader who flew to Singapore last Tuesday and was reported to have left there for Frankfurt on Saturday.

The Singapore government said Monday Manoon had left on Saturday for a West European destination but gave no details.

Mr. Hawke also was asked if the Australian government, a vociferous critic of the tests, saw itself as an adversary of France.

He said Mr. Mitterrand's statement had introduced a new dimension into international relations.

Mr. Hawke was asked by reporters in Port Moresby, where he is attending Papua New Guinea's 10th anniversary of independence, if he would take up the invitation issued by Mr. Mitterrand to French leaders.

"I will not," he replied firmly. Mr. Hawke added: "I have one message and one message alone for President Mitterrand. If President Mitterrand is so interested to prove to everyone in our region just how absolutely safe these tests are, there is one logical conclusion that follows: Take his tests back to France and have those absolutely safe tests in metropolitan France."

The prime minister went on: "He is saying to the countries of the region 'come and see how absolutely safe it is.'"

"If that's true, then pick up his trappings and all his scientists who can tell you how absolutely safe it

Hawke, rejecting atoll visit offer, tells France to test at home

PORT MORESBY (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke Monday flatly rejected an invitation by President Francois Mitterrand to visit France's nuclear test site in the South Pacific.

And he said that Mr. Mitterrand's assertion that critics of the test programme were adversaries of France introduced a very dangerous dimension into international relations.

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Mr. Hawke was asked by reporters in Port Moresby, where he is attending Papua New Guinea's 10th anniversary of independence, if he would take up the invitation issued by Mr. Mitterrand to French leaders.

"I will not," he replied firmly. Mr. Hawke added: "I have one message and one message alone for President Mitterrand. If President Mitterrand is so interested to prove to everyone in our region just how absolutely safe these tests are, there is one logical conclusion that follows: Take his tests back to France and have those absolutely safe tests in metropolitan France."

The prime minister went on: "He is saying to the countries of the region 'come and see how absolutely safe it is.'"

"If that's true, then pick up his trappings and all his scientists who can tell you how absolutely safe it

is, pick it all up and take it back and do it in France. It's absolutely safe."

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